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**WEEKEND
NSL
REPORTS**

WEEKLY

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AUSTRALIAN SOCCER WEEKLY

THOMMO'S TRAVELS

BY TED SIMMONS

SOCCEROO coach **Eddie Thomson** resumes the travelling trail this coming weekend to pursue his search to blend local and overseas stars into a successful national side.

Thomson will head to Melbourne to watch candidates for the Socceroos in the National League match between

South Melbourne and Melbourne Croatia.

And he doesn't discount using Australian players in the team who have made the grade in Europe for the Sydney international in June against England.

"I want to use the best players we have, whether they are in Australia or overseas," he said.

"Players in Europe will have finished their league

by June and should be free to play for Australia.

"Meanwhile, the national squad for next month's two games against Czechoslovakia will be announced after the January 6 NSL round.

"Probably about 10 players pick themselves but the remaining positions are wide open.

"I'll be closely looking at players like Alex Bundalo, Ian Gray, Andrew

Marth and Aurelio Vidmar and I will also be speaking to former Socceroo Alan Davidson.

"Alan will be chosen in the squad and it will be up to him if he wants to play."

Davidson last year announced his retirement from international soccer and moves have been made to return him to the Socceroos — as captain.

Thomson will retain the goalkeeping duo of Robert Zabica from Adelaide City and John Filan from St George.

He intends to give more squad experience to Filan, who is also the Australian Olympic keeper.

The Olympic squad doesn't get together in camp until March and will return for another training session in April for the Oceania qualifying rounds in May.

Thomson will have the games against Czechoslovakia and two matches against New Zealand in May to prepare his team for the England clash.

"The Socceroos are always the first priority but we don't have our play-offs

CONTINUED ON
PAGE 2



Sunshine's Alan Roodhouse chases Preston's Lou Bekiaris — both clubs are at opposite ends of the NSL ladder at the half-way mark of the season — photo JOE MONTEMURRO.



The impressive NSL championship trophy, now in the possession of Sydney Olympic. Who will lift the Cup on Grand Final day in April?

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QUIT NATIONAL LEAGUE TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Melb. Croatia	13	8	3	2	31	20	19
Marconi	13	9	0	4	27	15	18
South Melbourne	13	6	5	2	20	15	17
Preston	13	6	3	4	18	14	15
Sydney Croatia	13	4	6	3	14	13	14
Wollongong City	13	6	2	5	17	17	14
Adelaide City	13	4	6	3	13	14	14
Sydney Olympic	13	3	7	3	14	15	13
Parra Melita	13	4	4	5	18	18	12
Apia Leichhardt	13	4	3	6	14	15	11
Heidelberg Utd.	13	2	6	5	13	19	10
Sunshine GC	13	4	2	7	23	30	10
St George	13	2	4	7	14	21	8
Wollongong Macedonia	13	1	5	7	9	19	7

Results

SUNSHINE GC 3 (Clarkson, Waddell, Kindtner) ST GEORGE 1 (Harper) at Skinner Reserve. Crowd: 2,200.
SOUTH MELBOURNE 0 MARCONI (Seal, P. Okon, Markovski) at Middle Park. Crowd: 8,500.
SYDNEY CROATIA 1 (Gibson) HEIDELBERG UTD 1 (Rizopoulos) at Croatian Sports Centre. Crowd: 2,976.
APIA LEICHHARDT 0 WOLLONGONG CITY 0 at Lambert Park. Crowd: 2,000.
ADELAIDE CITY 1 (Falzon og) PARRA MELITA 1 (Brown) at Hindmarsh Stadium. Crowd: 3,000.
WOLLONGONG MACEDONIA 1 (Thornthwaite) Melb. Croatia 2 (White, Dunn og) at Brandon Park. Crowd: 2,647.
SYDNEY OLYMPIC 2 (Ironsides, Ollerenshaw) PRESTON 0 at St George Stadium. Crowd: 4,499.

CROWDS

ROUND 13: 25,772
AVERAGE PER GAME: 3,681
TOTAL ATTENDANCE: 295,836
AVERAGE PER ROUND: 22,756

TOP SCORERS

DAVID SEAL (Marconi)	12
TONY KRSLOVIC (Sydney Croatia)	10
WARREN SPINK (Preston)	7
IVAN KELIC (Melbourne Croatia)	7
GREG BROWN (Parra Melita)	7
FRANCIS AWARITEFE (Melbourne Croatia)	6

AUSTRALIAN

SOCCER

WEEKLY

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Pride of Melbourne at stake

BY ALISTAIR RUSSELL

THE pride of Melbourne football goes on the line on Sunday, with the feature match of Round 14, South Melbourne and Melbourne Croatia.

Without a championship in recent years, success-hungry fans in Melbourne feel this summer season may be their year for glory, with the victor on Sunday gaining very much the upperhand.

Leaders Melbourne Croatia, with by far the best attacking record in the league, have now gone seven games without defeat, following their narrow win at Wollongong Macedonia yesterday.

With such shining lights as Francis Awaritefe, Branko Milosevic and Alan Davidson, Melbourne Croatia have been unstoppable at home dropping just one point, while averaging better than three goals a game.

On the other side of the coin, Souths have netted six goals in their last two away matches, where they have lost just once all season.

With Paul Wade, Mike Petersen and Paul Trimboli showing the way, the Puskas coached side have looked the team to beat this season despite their big loss to Marconi last weekend.

While Kimon Taliadoros remains out injured, Puskas has introduced Michael Michalakopoulos with great success, netting four goals in four matches until yesterday.

Although Croatia hold the home ground advantage, this match is too close to call, with another massive crowd, the only certainty on Sunday.

The league's top scorers, Tony Krslovic and David Seal meet head on for the first time this season, when Sydney Croatia make the short journey to Marconi this weekend.

Local fans should pack Bossley Park for the match, with Marconi chasing the dynamic Melbourne duo for top spot and Croatia fighting for a place in the five.

The only side in the league with a 100% home record, Marconi should have the services of midfield general, Tom McCulloch, who missed the South Melbourne clash yesterday through illness.

With six goals in their last two matches and the important 3-0 humbling of championship contenders South Melbourne



Frank Bate and Darren Stewart in a aerial ballet of sorts in Sunday's 0-0 draw at Lambert Park — STEVE GOSCH pic.

under their belt, Marconi will take some stopping on Sunday.

Sydney Croatia's stocks should be lifted with the return from suspension of outstanding defender, Veleimir Kupresak, while Mike Grbevski made his welcome return from injury last weekend.

Without a win and with only three goals in six matches away from their home turf, Croatia must begin to pick up points in such matches, or risk slipping away from the top teams.

Preston take their appalling away record on the road this Sunday to face the tough as nails Wollongong City at Brandon Park.

With new signing Tony Pezzano retaining two successive clean sheets and David Ratcliffe back in the heart of the Wolves defence, Preston will get no respite from their inability to find the net away from home.

Despite only two defeats in their last nine matches, Preston have failed to score for seven and a half hours away from Connor Reserve.

The Wolves, on the brink of a place in the top five, have reco-

vered recently with the additions of Pezzano and Ratcliffe, but a scoreless draw would be a safe bet on Sunday.

Heidelberg without a win for over two months host the unpredictable Sunshine this Sunday.

The young George Cross side's inability to perform away from home must be a worry for coach Ernie Merrick.

At home Georgie have blasted in ten goals in their last four matches and have gone five games without defeat.

However, their leaky defence has allowed 20 goals away from Skinner Reserve and Georgie have lost their last three without scoring.

The Bergers have been given some stick for their strong arm tactics recently, however, they once again came back from the brink of defeat to glean a valuable point from Sydney Croatia yesterday.

Sunshine, despite their poor away record, should pick up the points on Sunday with the Bergers winning only twice in 11 matches between the two sides.

A draw looks likely when top five fringe

dweller Adelaide City and Sydney Olympic meet at Hindmarsh, while in other matches Wollongong Macedonia could surprise when they visit Melita and a draw looks favoured when the Saints host Apia.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

for the next World Cup until 1993," he said.

"So there will be plenty of action in the next six months when we play further Oceania qualifying rounds for the Under 17, Youth and Olympic teams. "Everything is running smoothly and our prospects look great."

Thomson has organised support in other States to watch for prospects outside the National League and said his squad was still open to other recommendations.



PLAYER AWARDS

Sydney Croatia v Heidelberg

- 3 Petkovic (SC)
- 2 Herd (H)
- 1 Gibson (SC)

Sunshine v St George

- 3 Ketsakidis (Sun)
- 2 De Amicis (Sun)
- 1 O'Shea (SG)

SM Hellas v Marconi

- 3 P. Okon (M)
- 2 Nastevski (M)
- 1 Petersen (SMH)

Apia v Wollongong City

- 3 K. Okon (A)
- 2 M. Brown (A)
- 1 Kuc (WC)

Wollongong M v Melb Croatia

- 3 Davidson (MC)
- 2 Donnelly (MC)
- 1 Cavanah (WM)

Sydney Olympic v Preston

- 3 Phillips (SO)
- 2 Spyridakos (SO)
- 1 Jackson (P)

Melita Eagles v Adelaide City

- 3 Cerro (ME)
- 2 T. Vidmar (AC)
- 1 Callanan (ME)

PLAYER POINTS

- 15: J. Filan (StG)
- 14: Petkovic (Syd Cr)
- 13: Stubbins (H)
- 11: Bundalo (Apia), P Okon (Marc)
- 10: Ivanovic (AC), Biskic (MC), Krslovic (SC), McDowall (Heid), McCulloch (Marc).



Former Socceroo skipper Charlie Yankos has emerged as the favourite for the new ASF marketing and promotions job following the withdrawal of John Warren, who had been on the shortlist.

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Olympic bounce back

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

SYDNEY Olympic, the current NSL champions, scored only their third victory at the half-way mark of the League when they soundly defeated the visiting Preston 2-0 last night at the St George Stadium before a highly excited crowd of 4,499.

Olympic, in fact, should have built on this score when they missed golden opportunities with monotonous regularity in the second half.

Scott Ollerenshaw was the main culprit as he could have easily hailed a hat-trick.

In the 56th minute Ollerenshaw beat Preston's sweeper Steve Jackson but his left footed shot from six metres shaved Preston's right post.

On the hour mark Ollerenshaw yet again failed to score after being sent away by a magnificent pass off the wrong foot by Kevin Hagan.

But Ollerenshaw's cream puff drive to the far post, although beating goalkeeper Phil Traianedes, was brought under control comfortably by Jackson on the goal line before clearing to safety.

Talented Preston midfielder George Petrov in the 65th minute was greatly disappointed as his rocketing 15-metre drive grazed Gosling's left post.

Olympic coach Mick Hickman was relieved



Apia's Paul McFadden (left) and Olympic's Steve Jackson in action in Round 11.

with the win stating: "Obviously I am pleased with the maximum points but I was still not highly satisfied with the second half where we were patchy in spots and lost control for a period of 10 minutes."

Alistair Edwards, Sydney Olympic's grand final-goalscoring hero of last season and back from Singapore after a seven-month stint, was in extremely fine touch, laying off some immaculate through balls with his back to the target.

Edwards told ASW: "It is good to be back and I always wanted to come back to Olympic. But the last 20 minutes I must admit I was starting to feel jaded."

Meanwhile, an under-

standably disappointed Preston boss John Gardiner said: "They won the game, we missed the chances."

Olympic killed the match when they scored within a lightning 52 seconds after kick-off.

Following a free kick on the left, teenage midfielder Steve Refenes blasted a rocket from 20 metres that was going just wide of Preston's right post. But tough midfielder Robbie Ironside raced in to stab the ball into the target from five metres and put Olympic ahead.

In the 21st minute, Refenes again was involved, this time whipping in a cross from the right to find Alistair Edwards in centre box, but Edwards' glancing header sailed wide of

Preston's right post.

One minute later Olympic clicked the scoreboard a second time in spectacular fashion.

Lanky target man Kevin Hagan blasted from right in front but Preston's goalkeeper Traianedes miraculously half blocked the hot chance as leftback George Jolevski in attempting to clear lifted the ball onto his crossbar.

The ball came back off the bar and flew to the feet of Scott Ollerenshaw who belted straight into the target from six metres.

Jolevski in the 26th crossed into the box but Warren Spink from 10 metres blasted over Clint Gosling's cross bar.

Seven minutes from half time Gosling crumbled to the ground after racing off his line to block a danger from the lurking Spink. Gosling collided heavily with Spink and went down to receive first aid attention for three minutes.

SYDNEY OLYMPIC: Gosling 6, Barrett 7, Bernal 7, Spyridakos 8, Hooker 7, Ollerenshaw 7, Ironside 7, Phillips 8, Refenes 7, Edwards 8, Hagan 7.

PRESTON: Traianedes 6, Roodhouse 7, Parton 7, Jackson 8, Jolevski 7, Zinni 7 (Beklaris 62m), Markovac 7, Petrov 7, Spasevski 6, Spink 7, Trajanovski 6.

SCORERS: R Ironside 1m, Ollerenshaw 22m for Sydney Olympic.

YELLOW CARD: Parton 55m for z Preston.

REFEREE: C Bambridge 8.

CROWD: 4,499.

Dull draw at Lambert Pk

BY LACHLAN BARKER



Wollongong's David Ratcliffe and Apia's Brian Ellem do battle at Lambert Park — STEVE GOSCH photo.

APIA and Wollongong Wolves played out a fairly dull 0-0 draw yesterday at Lambert park.

Wollongong relied on their scarifying defence and Apia had trouble finding their way through to Tony Pezzano's Wollongong goal.

The first half was a congested affair with thrills few and far between.

In the 16th minute Wollongong midfielder Richard Lloyd slung in a

take the ball when it took a wicked bounce and almost ballooned into the net.

Fortunately for Apia Hughes gathered it in and the crowd sighed with relief.

Apia tried more attack in the first half with Milan Blagojevic leading from the back.

Milan Blagojevic was the fly-wheel that spun Apia into many attacks with more often than not Klaus Okon the recipient of his precision

almost carried him into the clear several times.

However, one of Apia's posse of defenders was always on his tail.

Prolific Wollongong forward Frank Bate was shackled by Apia stopper Mark Brown, playing his umpteenth invaluable game for Apia.

If Bate had gone to the toilet at half-time Brown would have been close behind him.

The second half was similar to the first with only two major incidents.

Man-of-the-match Klaus Okon slammed a shot against the bar with Pezzano beaten and at the other end Hughes conjured up a save to remember from a Ibro Cahut drive.

Thus the game ran down to a 0-0 tie.

Wolves player-coach Dave Ratcliffe admitted a draw suited him.

"If we had five strikers we would have played them, however we didn't and we used what we had. A point was fine with me as we had a couple of players out," he said.

Apia coach Manfred Schaefer was equally philosophical.

"After the 2-0 loss last week I was happy with the draw. They are coming sixth and provided nothing in mid-field, how can you play a team that only uses the long boot up-field?"

APIA LEICHHARDT: Hughes 7, Blagojevic 7, Jennings 6, Stewart 6, Brown 7, McQuarrie 5, Ellem 6 (Clinch 88) 6, Gomez 5, McFadden 6 (Murray 66), Bundalo 6, Okon 7.

WOLLONGONG CITY: Pezzano 6, Green 6, Hollifield 5, Morlando 6, Yankos 5 (Celini 55), Ratcliffe 6, Cahut 6, Lloyd 6, Bate 6, Hristovski 6, Kuc 6.

YELLOW CARDS: Morlando 6m, Green 81m, Hristovski 87m (WC).

REFEREE: P. Hulme 6.

CROWD: 2000 (approx.)



Milan Blagojevic takes a tumble — and Apia are held to a draw at home — Photo by STEVE GOSCH.

low shot from the edge of the penalty area, Apia keeper Brett Hughes set himself to

passes. Wollongong were best served by Miladin Kuc whose long legs

AUSTRALIAN SOCCER WEEKLY — DECEMBER 31, 1990 3

HAVE YOUR SAY . . .

OUR man at various NSL matches in NSW, Stephen Oldridge, is there specially to collect a cross section of ideas from some important people — the members of the soccer public.

He is identifiable by his media badge, and will be glad to obtain your views on the progress of the game.

AUSTRALIAN SOCCER WEEKLY will then print a selection of the pointers that he has obtained.

What are your ideas to advance the great game of soccer football? Tell them to Stephen Oldridge, as he moves to various grounds.

ANOTHER HIGHLY READABLE ASW FEATURE



I attended the Marconi v Wollongong Macedonia game last Sunday week and must say how pleasantly impressed I was.

It was a wonderful experience. The atmosphere was terrific and both teams displayed considerable skills.

Here are some comments from people present at that thrilling match.

NSL Player, anonymous at his own request: The game needs a major shake-up, especially at the top.

The game itself is much better than it used to be as far as standards are concerned.

I am concerned about the self-opinionated amateurish officials who are more concerned about their interests than soccer's in general.

Too many of our players are heading overseas and unless major changes are made, the game

has no future in Australia.

Enrico: Advertising is what is needed, but it must be done properly to promote soccer as it should.

I would like the ethnic club names kept, as we must not forget the people who starting the ball rolling for soccer in this country.

The players need more marketing.

The highest profile team is Marconi but how many people could name all of their first team players?

Jim: I have been around long enough to see Marconi become a great club after humble beginnings.

Other clubs can learn from them and attempt to have the same excellent facilities.

Too many clubs have atrocious facilities for spectators — and without the fans you cannot have a prosperous domestic soccer scene.

Melita force 1-1 draw

BY ALAN CLARK

A composed Melita Eagles battled to a deserved point on Sunday in a 1-1 draw against Adelaide City at Hindmarsh

Stadium.

Raul Blanco's Melita fell behind after 59 minutes when young Jason Falzon unluckily scored an own goal.

But a Greg Brown

penalty only seconds later earned the valuable draw.

With Adcity youngster Michael Brooks in for suspended skipper Sergio Melta and former AIS boy Jason

Falzon playing for Melita in place of injured Alfredo Barrios youth was the flavour of the day,

And young legs were needed to cope with the hot humid conditions at Hindmarsh Stadium last night.

Tony Vidmar made it even hotter for Melita keeper Alex MacPherson after just three minutes with a stinging shot the keeper pushed for a corner.

City had all the early territorial advantage but could not capitalise.

Mercurial Marshall Soper was booked after 14 minutes after Tony Vidmar was left lying holding his face behind play.

Washington Gonzalez showed his class at the 26 minute mark, when he killed a dangerous Aurelio Vidmar cross on his chest and sent Melita into attack.

Then Gomez, Soper and Brown combined for Brown to slip a poor shot wide.

The game was slow and deliberate because of the heat with Melita content to keep City at bay and hit on the break.

After 31 minutes Aytec Genc set up Brown but his shot was charged down by Tony Vidmar.

Csboth had a chance after 39 minutes from a deep Maxwell cross but headed over.

Young Brooks came off after 40 minutes for City replaced by former Joey Ross Aloisi.

Carl Veart was fouled by Geoff Gunning at the edge of the box just on half time but Aurelio Vidmar's free kick was comfortably held by MacPherson.

Then Soper set up Brown with a point-blank header but he directed it straight at Adcity keeper Robert Zabica.

The second half was fairly lifeless with the two goals the only excitement.

Both teams will be happy with the point, however and will look to the new year for a charge into the five.

ADELAIDE CITY: Zabica 6, Shillabeer 6, T Vidmar 8, Ivanovic 6, Tobin 7, Brooks (Aloisi 40m Christophoulos 78m), Csboth 5, Veart 5, Mullen 7, Maxwell 6, A Vidmar 6.

MELITA EAGLES: MacPherson 6, Rezo 6, Falzon 6, Callanan 7, Gonzalez 7, Cerro 8, Nowicki 5, Genc 6 (Mason 72m), Soper 6, Brown 7, Gunning 6 (Parison 85m).

SCORERS: Falzon 59m (og) (AC); Brown 60m (ME). **YELLOW CARDS:** Soper 14m (ME), Callanan 62m (ME); Shillabeer 80m (AC).

REFEREE: John Santalabel 6.

CROWD: 3,000.



Apia's Milan Blagojevic in full stretch against Wollongong yesterday.

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WEEKEND
FIXTURES



ROUND 14

SUNDAY, JANUARY 6

WOLLONGONG CITY v PRESTON MAKEDONIA
Brandon Park 6pm

ST GEORGE BSC v APIA LEICHHARDT
St George Stadium 7pm

HEIDELBERG UNITED v SUNSHINE GEORGE CROSS
Olympic Village 6pm

MARCONI v SYDNEY CROATIA
Marconi Stadium 7pm

MELBOURNE CROATIA v STH MELBOURNE HELLAS
Somers Street 6pm

MELITA EAGLES v WOLLONGONG MACEDONIA
Melita Stadium 6pm

ADELAIDE CITY v SYDNEY OLYMPIC
Hindmarsh Stadium 8pm



Marconi's tyro striker David Seal

Game Macedonia push NSL leaders

BY LEN CHAFER

WOLLONGONG Macedonia held their own against high-flying Melbourne Croatia but went down 2-1 last night at Brandon Park.

Wollongong opened the scoring in the 15th minute when Zjelko Jurin was put through the middle and David Miller, the Melbourne Croatia goalkeeper, reached the ball first and held it when going down low in the penalty area.

Jurin fell over the goalkeeper's body but referee Gary Power pointed (somewhat harshly) to the spot.

Thornthwaite made no mistake from the penalty spot to put Wollongong Macedonia one goal up.

Two minutes later Macedonia had a great chance to go two up when Tom Pontidas put a clever ball through to Zlatko Markovski but with only the goalkeeper to beat, Markovski put his shot wide of goal from only six metres out.

Melbourne Croatia

hit back straight away in the 18th minute forcing a corner on the right.

Josip Bisic took the corner kick and Dale White, unmarked on the goal line, out-jumped the Macedonian defence to head the ball into the net.

Melbourne Croatia then began to dictate terms in the midfield with Alan Davidson playing a strong role.

It was in the 32nd minute when Croatia struck again. White took the ball well from Davidson, shielded the ball and sent a brilliant pass to Biskic on the right.

Bisic drew the goalkeeper, sent the ball across the goal-line and Paul Dunn, trying to clear the ball put it into his own net.

Melbourne Croatia began the second half where they left off and Biskic put a beautiful long ball through to Francis Awaritefe who pushed his shot past the advancing goalkeeper but unfortunately fired him it cleared the far post as well.

Then it was Macedonia's turn. Pontidas missed the goal with a header from only six metres after John Cavanagh crossed the ball from the left.

Then in the 66th minute a long goal kick from Melbourne Croatia's goalkeeper found Awaritefe unmarked and he in turn laid the ball square for Donnelly who shot cleared the bar from 12 metres out.

WOLLONGONG MACEDONIA: Peter Wilson 5, Dimov 6, Bourke 6, Dunn 6, Darren Wilson 5 (Cabassi 59m), Kay 5, Pontidas 6 (Becvinovski 68m), Cavanagh 7, Markovski 5, Jurin 5, Thornthwaite 6.

MELBOURNE CROATIA: Miller 6, Davidson 8, Marth 6, Selemidis 6, Hannah 7, Donnelly 7, Talajic 5, Biskic 6, Caleta 5, White 5 (Duzel 87m), Awaritefe 6.

REFEREE: G. Power 6. **YELLOW CARDS:** Dunn 57m (WM), Talajic 26m (MC), Donnelly 47m (MC), Marth 60m (MC).

SCORERS: Thornthwaite 15m (pen) (WM), White 18m (MC), Dunn 32m (og) (MC). **CROWD:** 2,647.

* LIVE QNSL BROADCASTS *

ASW's Greg Blake can be heard each weekend on 3AK's SUPER SOCCER SUNDAY — CHECK YOUR RADIO GUIDE FOR DETAILS —

3AK 1503 The Renaissance.

Masterful Marconi merciless

BY GREG BLAKE



ZLATKO NASTEVSKI

MARCONI coach Berti Mariani clearly masterminded the understatement of the day after his side had come to Middle Park and well and truly crushed South Melbourne 3-0 yesterday.

Of the performance of Zlatko Nasteovski, Mariani merely said: "Nasteovski adds that link between midfielders and front runners."

Nasteovski was not only the link but to my mind the Marconi maestro. Only now returning to form following injury, he turned the match with a remarkable display of defence splitting passes, positional play, surging runs and telling shots.

Had the tiring Nasteovski not been substituted in the 65th minute there is no doubt he would have taken man of the match honours.

In the end the honours fell to powerful eighteen-year-old Paul Okon for what was virtually a flawless display in the centre of a dominant Marconi defence.

A huge crowd packed Middle Park for a clash of titans, fully expecting South Melbourne to extend its unbeaten 23-match home run.

In the early stages the blue and white army

roared with delight as Hellas pressed forward to create five shots on the Marconi goal in the first twenty minutes of play.

South Melbourne's best chance came in the 20th minute when Michalakopoulos had his shot on the run saved by Catlin and from the resultant corner from Tsolakis, Wade's blistering header down was parried by the goalkeeper and cleared by de Marigny.

Rather than lift South Melbourne the incident seemed to spark Nasteovski and the green machine into action.

Led from the front by the elegant Nasteovski, Marconi put together an encouraging end to the first half and a successful opening to the second half.

In the 58th minute, Marconi broke the deadlock.

Nasteovski curled a freekick from outside the box to the edge of the seven metre area and Seal rose majestically to head the ball home.

Marconi struck again 14 minutes later as Seal squared to substitute Peter Katholos who brilliantly turned Blair and the Hellas defender could do little but to dive and punch the ball clear and referee Peter Spiers had no hesitation

in awarding the spot-kick.

Paul Okon's penalty was magnificently saved by the diving MacLaren but MacLaren could only watch in despair as Okon followed up to slam home the rebound.

With 10 minutes to play, Lowe did brilliantly to shield the ball from three defenders deep inside the penalty box before turning and chipping to the back post to where Markovski rifled home a fearsome right footer in spectacular style to make it 3-0.

"Marconi is a good team — the best in Australia," said Hellas boss Ferenc Puskas in a sub-

dued Hellas dressing room.

"But the ball is round and one day it's for us and one day it's for them."

SOUTH MELBOURNE: MacLaren 6, Healy 6, Postecoglou 7, Durakovic 6, Blair 6, Wade 6, Michalakopoulos 5, Petersen 7, Trimboli 5, Wright 5 (Palatsides 74m), Tsolakis 6.

MARCONI: Catlin 7, Wheatley 7, de Marigny 7, Calderan 7, Okon 8, Gray 6, Nasteovski 8 (Katholos 65m), Jones 6, Seal 6 (Corica 83m), Markovski 7, Lowe 7.

SCORERS: Seal 58m, Okon 72m, Markovski 80m for Marconi.

REFEREE: P Spiers 6.

CROWD: 8,500 (approx).

BRAVE BERGER DRAW

BY FRANK SCICLUNA

A highly committed Heidelberg United fought back well from going a goal down after just 40 seconds to deservedly share the points with a lacklustre Sydney Croatia in a dull 1-1 draw at the Croatian Sports Centre last night.

Following their unexpected draw with hot shots South Melbourne last week this point was more than welcome in Heidelberg's desperate battle for NSL survival.

Croatia coach Tony Vrzina was more than a little concerned before the match because of niggling injuries carried by strikers Tony Krslovic and Manis Lamond.

Together with the suspension of star defender Velimir Kupresak and the physical type of game expected from the Bergers Vrzina was quite apprehensive about the outcome.

But before Vrzina or anybody else realised what was happening, Croatia went a goal ahead in the first 40 seconds.

Heidelberg midfielder George Slifkas attempted a backpass from the edge of the box which deflected off a team mate and fell nicely for John Gibson to pick his spot before slotting it wide of keeper Jeff Oliver.

That shock goal may have come a little too early as Croatia appeared to relax, allowing Heidelberg to take control in the middle of the park with little Willie Herd causing all sorts of problems.

When Heidelberg got on level terms after 26 minutes it was no more than they deserved, and Herd was the chief architect.

He floated the ball from the right, completely beyond a ball-watching defence, allowing Terry Rizouloupoulos to ghost in and connect with a good header which beat Franken all ends up.

The visitors were having the best of it at this

stage, with tight marking on the the Croatia dangermen and calm, controlled build-ups from the back causing a number of headaches.

Croatia had their best chance right on the half time whistle when Pedro Ricoy sent a header curling over the bar.

With both Krslovic and Lamond completely marked out of the game, Croatia began using Gibson wide on the right touchline to capitalise on the large amount of space which began to appear.

From one such move, in the 50th minute, Gibson set up Krslovic 15 metres out, but the big striker wasted his chance by sending his shot well over the bar.

The type of commitment which has now become synonymous with this Heidelberg side kept them well in the match, even though they appeared content to play it tight and look for a quick counter-attack to snatch a winner.

Heidelberg's determination to hang on to at least a point, coupled with Croatia's lack of spark in attack, turned the game into a dull, mediocre affair for the 2976 disappointed fans.

Krslovic came close to breaking the deadlock in the dying moments when his attempt shaved the crossbar and an Angie Goutzoulis 20-metre run looked promising but like the game itself, nothing decisive came out of it.

SYDNEY CROATIA: Franken 6, Carter 7, Grbevski 6, Zelic 6, Popovic 6, Runje 6 (Stanton 76m), Petkovic 7, Gibson 7, Ricoy 7, Lamond 6, Krslovic 6.

HEIDELBERG: Olver 7, Bratten 6, Rizopoulos 7, McDowall 6, Cannell 6, Scott 6, Stubbs 6, Herd 7, Stevenson 6, Goutzoulis 7, Slifkas 6 (Bordignon 85m).

SCORERS: Gibson 1m for Croatia; Rizopoulos 26m for Heidelberg.

YELLOW CARDS: Petkovic 40m, Carter 43m for Croatia; Herd 65m, Scott 71m for Heidelberg.

REFEREE: J McConnell 5.

CROWD: 2976.

Emphatic win to Georgie

BY DAVID BULLOCK



SUNSHINE George Cross completely outplayed a disappointing St George to collect a valuable two points in a match that both sides desperately needed to win at Skinner Reserve yesterday.

George Cross opened the scoring in the 22nd minute through David Clarkson but the goal was cancelled out 12 minutes later by Alan Harper.

In the second half George Cross made sure of the points when John Waddell converted a penalty in the 71st minute and one minute from full time Lorenz Kindtner rounded off the scoring.

In the second minute St George came close to opening the scoring when Kesat Katovic was denied from close range by George Cross keeper Frank Talia who made a brilliant fingertip save.

A four-minute burst of pressure from George Cross paid dividends in the 22nd minute when David Clarkson scored with ease.

A superb through ball from Gary Hasler found Clarkson in the clear and with only keeper John Filan to beat, he neatly tucked the ball under the keeper's body and into the back of the net.

George Cross came

close to extending their lead on the half-hour when Damian Mori hit a thundering shot from 25 metres that went sailing centimetres over the crossbar.

Saints hit back to equalise in the 34th minute thanks to some fine running and determination from Vince Colagiuri.

Colagiuri sent a low pass into the box where Alan Harper neatly slotted the ball past Talia with ease.

In the 39th minute Lorenz Kindtner came within centimetres of scoring when he shot at the near post after collecting a cross from Hasler.

A minute from half time a neat cross from Hasler was met by Damien Mori who from point blank range volleyed his shot centimetres over the crossbar.

In the opening minute of the second half Hasler was once again the playmaker as he cleverly backheeled the ball into the path of Clarkson who from the edge of the penalty area hit a thundering shot that cannoned off the

crossbar.

As the match saw-sawed play went from end to end in quick succession until the 71st minute when George Cross grabbed the initiative.

A harsh challenge from St George defender Domonic Longo on substitute Andy Humble was penalised by referee David Mortimer who had no hesitation in pointing to the spot.

Waddell stepped up and made no mistake, hitting his shot into the bottom right hand corner despite a desperate lunge from Filan.

In the final minute Kindtner grabbed his fifth goal of the season when a pass from Clarkson inside the area was blasted into the back of the net giving Filan no chance.

SUNSHINE GEORGE CROSS: Talia 6, Mori 6, Roodhouse 6, Waddell 6, Katsakidis 7, C Foster 5 (Fabrizio 75m), Kindtner 6, Hunter 5 (Humble 68m), Hasler 5, Clarkson 6, De Amicis 6.

ST GEORGE: Filan 6, Milicevic 5, Longo 5, Moffitt 5, Koczka 5, O'Shea 6, Harper 5, Katovic 4 (El All 46m 5), Baillie 5, Illic 5 (Easthorpe 75m), Colagiuri 6.

SCORERS: Sunshine George Cross: Clarkson 22nd, Waddell 71st (pen), Kindtner 89th; St George Harper 34th.

YELLOW CARDS: Hunter 21m for Sunshine.

REFEREE: D Mortimer 5.

CROWD: 2,200.

MARCONI v SYDNEY CROATIA



MARCONI STADIUM

SUNDAY 7PM

YOUTH LEAGUE 5PM



DAVID SEAL



BOBBY CATLIN



BRESCIA



ANTHONY FRANKEN



IVAN PETKOVIC

A NIGHT OF FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT

BRESCIA FURNITURE

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Chit Chat ... Chit Chat ... Chit Chat



Former Apia Leichhardt Socceroo midfielder Jason van Blerk (right) was due back in Sydney last week to visit his family during his club, St Truiden's, Belgian winter break.

If anyone — other than Wollongong City's tall midfielder Richard Lloyd — has marked Tony Cottee, let him stand up and be counted!

During a playing experience tour that took him to the United Kingdom and the USA, Lloyd stayed with former Wolves player Derek O'Neill in Ireland. O'Neill has been playing for Athlone Town, who had a pre-season home match with Everton. Lloyd was invited to take his boots down to the game, and ended up playing for 20 minutes as a replacement, trying to keep Cottee quiet.

"It was a great experience. We led 1-0 but lost 5-1," he said.

★★★

Over the recent back to back winter and summer seasons Wollongong City were \$26,000 down on their operations.

Prior to that they were \$43,000 ahead.

The current position reveals a deficit of \$42,000 as per the up-to-date statement processed by accounting firm, Coopers and Lybrand. The directors guarantee the overdraft but, says club president Laurie Kelly, "the new business

plan is aimed to see us cash-positive as soon as possible."

★★★

Craig Johnston, through public relations consultants Karen Grega and Associates, has a number of youth soccer promotional deals in the pipeline. No details can be announced as yet.

★★★

Scott Whittaker and Chris Tyson, well known around the soccer scene, will again have a high profile in the new year.

Their Delta Sports and Marketing will be strongly in the field, with marketing rights for Sydney for the well-known Mitre brand football products.

★★★

Wollongong City defender Mike Hollifield has applied for permanent residency in Australia. The big fellow brought his family out from England for the second time at the start of the present NSL season. During his career he has had 16 games in the English First Division, in the days when Wolverhampton Wanderers were in the top league.

★★★

Quite a few well-known names are being bandied around as likely starters for Newcastle BHP Austral, when the club gains admission to the National Soccer League. And, would you believe it, many of them are Newcastle-born and bred?

★★★

Former Socceroo great turned Wollongong City coach, David Ratcliffe, has resumed his playing career.

"We need a bit of experience to direct things, and I haven't been able to find the man to do the job. I've slowed up a bit, but I'm sure I can provide a deal of what we need," he said.

At the start of the year the Wolves missed out in their bid to lure Alex Bundalo back home to Wollongong from Lambert Park.

★★★

Apia Leichhardt president Ron Orsatti is infuriated that the doors of Leichhardt Oval are padlocked all summer, when his club should be using the ground.

He is moving heaven and earth to get a seemingly obdurate Leichhardt Municipal Council to make the ground available.

Meanwhile, Apia has to kick off their home games at 5pm in the summer heat.

★★★

Sydney Croatia has raised a very tidy sum towards the costs of a grandstand. The fundraising immediately followed an inspired John Taylor article in the Sydney Telegraph-Mirror, in which the club's difficulties in meeting the Bradley Report guidelines were highlighted.

★★★

St George striker Matthew Bingley will soon find out whether his soccer career takes a temporary or long term stoppage. The 19-year-old dynamo limped off the field last Sunday week after a heavy clash with Sydney Croatia goalkeeper Anthony Franken, and is expecting a decision on his knee injury today. Bingley had followed a huge wind-assisted clearance kick from St George goalkeeper John Filan into the Croatia penalty area where he out-jumped Franken to head the first goal.

Bingley was told that if he needed knee reconstruction he could be sidelined for possibly eight months but if it was only strained he could be back in four to six weeks. He had been worried earlier in the season with a tissue problem in the right knee which occurred while he was playing for the Australian Youth team in the Oceania qualifying rounds in Fiji. His biggest concern is recovering in time to retain his place in the Australian side for the Oceania playoff match against Israel next year. "I've got six weeks before the youth team is scheduled to

play in February which doesn't leave me much time to spare," he said.

★★★

South Melbourne's round 11 win over St George took its current unbeaten home stretch to 23 successive matches.

The Melbourne giant is now just three games away from equalling Sydney Croatia's long-standing NSL record of 26 unbeaten matches at home, recorded between 1984 and 1987.

To equal that record Souths must overcome Marconi, Melita and Wollongong Macedonia at Middle Park and then, to break the record, it must, ironically, meet Sydney Croatia in Round 19.

That round 19 clash will be a big day for the club if it can overtake that impressive Sydney Croatia record.

★★★

David Lowe is another player who may head overseas. The classy Marconi midfielder is considering an offer to play in Malaysia during the off-season.

★★★

Sydney Olympic have fined Abbas Saad for his "comeback" send-off against Melita Eagles. Serving a one-game suspension, Saad missed yesterday's match against Preston.

★★★

Marconi's David Seal and Stephen Corica are believed to be high on the list of Belgian agents. An Italian club, meanwhile, is said to be interested in Paul Trimboli.

★★★

Australian Soccer Federation general secretary Alan Vessey

is back in Sydney after finalising plans for the England tour with English FA representative Glen Kirton in Malaysia.

Vessey took the Malaysian trip

opportunity to have talks with the Asian Confederation's FIFA representative Peter Velappan and believes there will be a more united push by Asia and Oceania.

Let's not forget SBS

ALTHOUGH Australian soccer fans continually scream for more of their favourite game on television, they should turn back the clock 10 years and appreciate how much things have changed since then.

It is true to say that by international standards we are still a long way from obtaining a 'healthy' soccer diet on our television sets, hours of coverage-wise.

However, if it weren't for the efforts of SBS, the level of soccer coverage would be even less.

When network 0-28 first hit our screens in the latter half of 1980, soccer coverage was virtually non-existent.

The ABC showed 'Match of the Day' and Channel 7 occasionally screened 'The Big League' — both British commodities.

Our own game had no profile, apart from Fred Villiers' five-minute segment on the Aussie rules dominated 'World of Sport' in Melbourne.

As for coverage of other international leagues, they may as well have not existed.

When 'World Soccer' hit the screen that same year, with Les Murray, it was almost an unimaginable happening, given the 'soccer famine' apparent at the time.



LES MURRAY

live telecasts of European Champions', Cup-Winners', UEFA, and Intercontinental Club Cup finals every year on our television screens.

SBS has continued to increase its standard of soccer coverage in recent years.

Its productions of the last European Championships and World Cup were both immaculate achievements, especially the latter.

With such a record, SBS have easily been Australia's soccer's greatest allies in the past decade.

After giving so much to the local game, one could not blame the SBS team if they felt bitterly disappointed at the QNSL and the ASF's decision to give their match coverage rights to the ABC.

It is ironic that SBS, who initiated the coverage of the Socceroos and the domestic league on a wide basis, can no longer do so.

One can understand to a degree why the two soccer bodies have changed allegiances.

The ABC, they believe, can give soccer a much greater level of exposure with its Australia-wide communications network.

Nonetheless, these facts mustn't be all that comforting for SBS who are now restricted to covering only international games.

The ABC will no doubt provide a competent standard of soccer broadcasting in the years to come.

However, SBS will still remain a soccer institution in the eyes of local fans.

After all, who can forget an entity which first brought us the cream of soccer into our living rooms on a week to week basis?

— TONY ABATE



Parramatta Melita's Alfredo Barrios is screening off Gary Bratten of Heidelberg. Both are key players for their clubs. — Photo by STEPHEN GOSCH.

SOCCER POOLS

THE POOLS

THIS WEEK'S MATCH LIST

WEEK 284
SAT. 5th JANUARY, 1991

F.A. CUP 3RD ROUND	ARSENAL	SUNDERLAND	1
	ASTON VILLA	WIMBLEDON	2
	BARNSEY	LEEDS	3
	BLACKBURN	LIVERPOOL	4
	BRIGHTON	SCUNTHORPE	5
	CHARLTON	EVERTON	6
	COVENTRY	WIGAN A.	7
	HULL	NOTTS. C.	8
	MIDDLESBRO	PLYMOUTH	9
	MILLWALL	LEICESTER	10
	NEWCASTLE	DERBY	11
	NORWICH	BRISTOL C.	12
	SHEFF. UNITED	LUTON	13
	SOUTHAMPTON	IPSWICH	14
ENG. DIV. 4	GRIMSBY	BURY	15
	DARLINGTON	CARLISLE	16
	HEREFORD	ROCHDALE	17
	LINCOLN	WALSALL	18
	BOSTON UNITED	MACCLESFIELD	19
	GATESHEAD	CHELTHAM	20
	KETERING	KIDMINSTER	21
	MERTHYR T.	RUNCORN	22
	NORTHWICH	FISHER ATH.	23
	WELLING UTD.	YEovil	24
	BISHOP AUK.	SOUTHPORT	25
	FRICKLEY A.	MOSSLEY	26
	GAIRSBORO	MARINE	27
	HYDE	MORECAMBE	28
H.F.S. LEAGUE	MATLOCK	DROYLSDEN	29
	SHEPshed	WITTON A.	30
	CRAWLEY	DORCHESTER	31
	GLOUCESTER	CHELMSFORD	32
	GRAVESEND	WEALDSTONE	33
	HALESOWEN	RUSHDEN	34
	MOOR GREEN	DARTFORD	35
	RUGBY	DOVER	36
	WEYMOUTH	BROMSGROVE	37
	AYLESBURY	ENFIELD	38
SEAZER HOMES			
VAUXHALL LEAGUE			
SCOTS 8 & 0			
SCOTS 8 & 0			

Get your Pools in!

It takes only six numbers to win.

MATCH RESULTS

WEEK 283
SAT. 29th DECEMBER, 1990

ENGLISH DIVISION 1	ARSENAL	SHEFF. UTD.	1	4-1
	COVENTRY	NORWICH	2	2-0
	EVERTON	DERBY	3	2-0
	LEEDS	WIMBLEDON	4	3-0
	LUTON	CHELSEA	5	2-0
	MAN. UNITED	ASTON VILLA	6	1-1
	SOUTHAMPTON	TOTTENHAM	7	3-0
	BLACKBURN	OXFORD UTD.	8	1-3
	BRIGHTON	LEICESTER	9	2-0
	BRISTOL C.	MIDDLESBRO	10	3-0
	HULL	BARNSEY	11	1-2
	IPSWICH	CHARLTON	12	4-4*
	MILLWALL	OLDHAM	13	0-0
	NEWCASTLE	NOTTS. C.	14	0-2
ENGLISH DIVISION 2	PLYMOUTH	BRISTOL R.	15	2-2*
	SHEFF. WED.	PORTSMOUTH	16	2-1
	WATFORD	SWINDON	17	2-2*
	WEST BROM.	WOLVES	18	1-1
	WEST HAM	PORT VALE	19	0-0
	BIRMINGHAM	BOLTON	20	1-3
	BOURNEMOUTH	LEYTON O.	21	2-2*
	BURY	PRESTON	22	3-1
	CAMBRIDGE U.	GRIMSBY	23	1-0
	CREWE	BRENTFORD	24	3-3*
	FULHAM	CHESTER	25	4-1
	READING	MANSFIELD	26	2-1
	ROTHERHAM	TRANMERE	27	1-1
	SHREWSBURY	EXETER	28	2-2*
ENGLISH DIVISION 3	STOKE	HUDDERSFIELD	29	2-0
	WIGAN A.	SWANSEA	30	2-4
	ALDERSHOT	PETERBORO	31	5-0
	BLACKPOOL	LINCOLN	32	5-0
	CARDIFF	HALIFAX	33	1-0
	CHESTERFIELD	STOCKPORT	34	1-1*
	DONCASTER	HEREFORD	35	3-1
	GILLINGHAM	NORTHAMPTON	36	0-0
	HARTLEPOOL	WALSALL	37	0-2
	ROCHDALE	MAIDSTONE	38	3-2
ENGLISH DIVISION 4				

THE POOLS RESULTS HISTORY AT 24/12/90 — WEEK 282

NO. OF TIMES EACH NUMBER OCCURRED									NO. OF WEEKS SINCE EACH NUMBER OCCURRED															
1	32	36	42	21	35	51	37	54	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	0							
9	48	60	57	61	50	57	58	51	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16								
17	57	49	40	57	54	57	56	53	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	2							
25	52	58	56	67	68	78	59	57	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32								
33	59	63	74	57	60				33	34	35	36	37	38										

Results History is from Week 38, the start of Six from 38 Pools

Results History is from Week 38, the start of Six from 38 Pools

RESULTS OF WEEK 283 SAT 29 DECEMBER, 1990

Winning Match Numbers (in numerical order):
12, 15, 17, 21, 24, 28.
Supplementary Number: 34.

English division one														Kilmarnock													
Liverpool	19	14	3	1	38	15	45							20	8	5	7	30	30	21							
Arsenal	20	13	7	0	40	10	44							Meadowbank	20	5	9	6	29	28	19						
Leeds	20	11	6	3	36	18	39							Ayr	21	6	7	8	26	32	19						
Crystal Palace	20	11	6	2	30	18	39							Norton	21	7	4	10	26	32	18						
Tottenham	19	11	6	5	33	25	33							Forfar	21	3	7	11	27	38	13						
Manchester United	20	9	6	5	30	22	32							Brechin	20	4	12	24	46	12							
Manchester City	19	7	8	4	30	27	29							Clyde	19	2	4	13	18	38	8						
Chelsea	20	8	5	7	33	37	29							Scottish division two													
Norwich	20	8	2	10	24	33	26							Stirling	19	10	8	1	33	13	28						
Wimbledon	20	6	7	7	29	31	25							Berwick	20	11	3	6	30	27	25						
Nottingham Forest	19	6	6	7	27	29	24							Queens Park	19	10	3	6	24	17	23						
Luton	20	6	5	9	22	30	23							East Fife	18	8	6	4	29	21	22						
Southampton	20	6	4	10	29	36	22							Stenhousemuir	19	9	2	5	34	28	22						
Everton	20	5	6	9	22	24	21							Cowdenbeath	19	9	2	5	34	28	22						
Aston Villa	19	4	8	7	18	20	20							Stranraer	19	9	1	9	30	31	19						
Coventry	20	5	5	10	20	24	20							Dumbarton	19	6	7	25	28	18							
Queens Park Rangers	20	4	5	11	26	38	17							Alloa	18	7	3	8	25	20	17						
Derby	19	4	5	10	17	34	17							Montrose	19	7	2	10	24	21	16						
Sunderland	20	3	6	11	23	32	15							Albion	19	6	4	9	25	27	15						
Sheffield United	19	7	4	13	19	36	10							Arbroath	19	5	5	9	25	27	15						
English division two														Queen of South													
West Ham	24	14	9	1	35	13	51							East Stirling	18	4	3	11	15	37	11						
Oldham	23	14	4	3	47	24	48							English division one													
Sheffield Wednesday	23	11	10	2	46	27	43							Arsenal	4												
Middlesbrough	23	12	4	7	37	20	40							Coventry	2												
Notts County	23	11	6	6	35	27	39							Everton	2												
Wolverhampton	23	10	4	8	37	28	34							Leeds	3												
Bristol City	22	10	4	8	37	33	34							Luton	2												
Barnsley	23	8	8	7	33	29	32							Manchester United	1												
Millwall	23	8	8	7	33	29	32							Nottingham Forest	1												
Bristol Rovers	22	8	7	7	29	26	31							Queen's Park Rangers	1												
Brighton	21	9	4	8	31	39	31							Southampton	3												
Port Vale	23	8	5	10	32	33	29							Playing Sunday: Crystal Palace v Liverpool													
Swindon	24	6	11	7	32	38	29							English division three													
West Bromwich	24	6	10	8	31	35	28							Blackburn	1												
Newcastle	23	6	9	8	28	31	27							Brighton	1												
Charlton	23	6	7	10	31	36	25							Bristol City	3												
Blackburn	24	7	4	13	26	35	25							Hull	1												
Diford	23	5	9	9	37	45	24							Ipswich	4												
Derby	24	6	10	8	31	35	28							Millwall	0												
Watford	23	5	9	11	22	21	23							Newcastle	0												
Leicester	22	6	5	11	30	47	23							Plymouth	2												
Portsmouth	24	5	7	12	26	40	22							Sheffield Wednesday	2												
Hull	24	5	7	12	39	58	22							Watford	2												
English division three														West Bromwich Albion													
Southend	21	14	4	3	38	26	46							West Ham	0												
Gillingham	21	12	4	5	34	19	35							Port Vale	0												
Grimsby	21	9	8	4	29	23	35							English division four													
Brentford	21	9	8	4	29	23	35							Bournemouth	2												
Leyton Orient	20	11	2	7	28	24	35							Birmingham	1												
Bolton	21	10	5	6	28	25	35							Bury	3												
Cambridge	21	9	7	5	36	28	34							Cambridge	1												
Bury	20	9	6	5	33	26	33							Crawley	3												
Stoke	21	9	6	5	29	24	33							Fulham	1												
Reading	21	9	4	8	32	30	31							Reading	2												
Tranmere	21	8	6	7	32	26	30							Rotherham	1												
Bournemouth	21	7	9	5	25	24	30							Shrewsbury	2												
Bradford	21	8	5	8	24	25	29							Stoke	2												
Swansea	21	8	5	8	26	28	29							Wigan	2												
Huddersfield	20	8	4	8	25	26	28							Played Friday:													
Wigan	21	8	3	10	31	34	27							Southend	1												
Birmingham	21	6	9	6	21	25	27							English division five													
Preston	21	6	7	8	25	31	25							Aldershot	3												
Exeter	21	6	6	9	24	26	24							Blackpool	5												
Chester	21	6	4	11	21	27	22							Cardiff	1												
Fulham	21	4	8	9	23	27	20							Chesterfield	1												
Crews	21	4	7	10	33	29	19							Doncaster	3												
Shrewsbury	20	4	6	10	33	38	18							Gillingham	3												
Mansfield	21	4	6	11	20	30	18							Hartlepool	0												
Rotherham	21	3	5	13	22	41	14							Rochdale	3												
English division four														Scarborough													
Doncaster	21	11	5	5	33	18	38							Scunthorpe	1												
Torquay	20	10	7	4	29	19	37							Torquay	2												
Nottingham	20	10	6	4	26	23	36							Wrexham	0												
Darlington	20	9	7	4	29	17	34							Scottish premier division													
Burnley	20	10	4	6	35	26	34							Celtic	1												
Stockport	20	8	9	3	29	17	33							Dundee United	0												
Peterborough	21	8	8	5	23	22	32							Hibernian	0												
Schaffale	20	8	6	6	28	23	30							Motherwell	1												
Hartlepool	19	9	3	7	26	25	30							Scottish division one													
Sillingham	21	7	8	6	28	25	30							Airdrieonians	1												
Walsall	20	7	8	5	27	27	29							Ayr	1												
Cardiff	21	7	8	6	21	25	29							Brechin	1												
Scarborough	22	7	7	8	26	31	28							Clyde	1												
Peterford	21	6	9	6	29	23	27							Forfar	0												
Scunthorpe	21	7	6	7	23	25	27							Meadowbank	0												
Carlisle	21	7	5	9	21	31	26							Raith	1												
Blackpool	21	6	6	9	31	27	24							Scottish Football Association (FA) Cup, second round													
Maidstone	21	7	3	11	35	33	24							Berwick	1												
York	19	4	8	7	20	21	20							Fraserburgh	1												
Aldershot	21	5	4	8	33	43	20							Inverness Thistle	1												
Greenock	20	5	4	12	25	37	19							Montrose	0												
Chesterfield	20																										

Player award race hots up

BY GREG BLAKE

THE race for the ASW-Pascoe Vale Sports Scene NSL Player of the Year Award is really hotting up.

ASW's 1989/90 inaugural player of the year, John Filan, of St George, has been setting a cracking pace during the early part of this season but the Saints goalkeeper is getting plenty of opposition.

Hot on his tail this year is Heidelberg surprise-packet Phil Stubbins, who led the award for some weeks, Sydney Croatia's Ivan Petkovic, Apia's Alex Bundalo, Melbourne Croatia's long-serving Josip Biskic, Sydney Croatia's former Saint Tony Krslovic, Olympic's Robbie Ironside, Sunshine's rising champion Lorenz Kindtner and Adelaide's Milan Ivanovic.

It is a class field in contention for the end of year prize, compliments of Melbourne's Pascoe Vale Sports Scene, located in Bell Street, Pascoe Vale.

For his efforts, the 1990/91 Player of the Year will take home a magnificent trophy as well as a cheque for \$500.

There are no limitations on the number of games played by NSL players chasing the award.

Notes are cast by ASW experts at each NSL match on a 3-2-1 basis.

First past the post takes home the booty.

To keep you updated on your favourite player here is the complete list of vote-getters after 11 completed NSL rounds.

See the NSL pages of this edition to see the current leader board following last weekend's round of matches.



PHIL STUBBINS

VOTE-GETTERS TO THE END OF ROUND 11 ARE:

13 — P. Stubbins (Heid), J. Filan (StG), 11 — A. Bundalo (Apia), I. Petkovic (SC), 10 — M. Ivanovich (Ad.C), J. Biskic (MC), T. Krslovic (SC), 9 — L. Kindtner (SGC), R. Ironside (SO), 8 — D. Stewart (Apia), D. Lowe (Marc), C. Foster (SGC), 7 — R. Zabic (Ad.C), G. McDowall



The impressive ASW-Pascoe Vale Sports Scene NSL Player of the Year trophy — Photo JOE MONTEMURRO.

(Heid), I. Gray (Marc), T. McCulloch (Marc), A. McPherson (ME), S. Jackson (PM), M. Petersen (SMH), D. Skeen (Woll), C. Yankos (Woll), D. Wilson (WM), 6 — E. Papai (Ad.C), P. Okon (Marc), A. Davidson (MC), G. Hannah (MC), B. Milosevic (MC), W. Gonzalez (ME), R. Markovac (PM), M. Michalakopoulos (SMH), P. Tsolakis (SMH), D. Clarkson (SGC), N. Zelic (SC), L. Dimov (WM), 5 — M. Blagojevic (Apia), R. Catlin (Marc), H. Gimenez (ME), W. Spink (PM), A. Zinni (PM), S. Blair (SMH), C. Moffitt (StG), G. Phillips (SO), 4 — T. Vidmar (Ad.C), S. Parton (PM), M. Durakovic (SMH), A. Postecoglou (SMH), A. Koczka (StG), J. Waddell (SGC), A. Franken (SC), V. Kupresak (SC), J. Bennett (SO), M. Kuc (Woll), P. Wilson (WM), 3 — A. Vidmar (Ad.C), G. Jennings (Apia), J. McQuarrie (Apia), G. Bratten (Heid), D. Seal (Marc), R. Wheatley (Marc), P. Donnelly (MC), G. Cerro (ME), S. O'Donnell (ME), M.

Soper (ME), J. Nowicki (ME), E. Hristodoulou (SO), T. Spyridakos (SO), F. Bate (Woll), G. Bouhoutsis (Woll), P. Brodnik (Woll), Martin Bourke (WM), J. Bradley (WM), P. Kay (WM), 2 — A. Tobin (Ad.C), C. Veart (Ad.C), P. McFadden (Apia), A. Goutzoulis (Heid), JP de Marigny (Marc), A. Marth (MC), O. Crino (PM), Z. Tasevski (PM), B. McLaren (SMH), K. Taliadoros (SMH), P. Wade (SMH), S. Baillie (StG), O. El Ali (StG), D. Mori (SGC), M. Lamond (SC), D. Barrett (SO), D. McAvoy (Woll), 1 — S. Clinch (Apia), B. Ellem (Apia), K. Okon (Apia), W. Herd (Heid), A. Scott (Heid), J. Caleta (MC), D. Miller (MC), M. Talajich (MC), G. Brown (ME), G. Gunning (ME), K. Trajanovski (PM), A. Harper (StG), F. Talia (SGC), P. Ricoy (SC), P. Carter (SC), A. Bernal (SO), C. Gosling (SO), R. Hooker (SO), I. Cahut (Woll), M. Hollifield (Woll), R. Lloyd (Woll), J. Cavanagh (WM), W. Young (WM).

No move — Trimboli

PAUL Trimboli says he knows nothing about press reports that Italian talent scouts are in Australia to scout him.

South Melbourne Hellas' Soccerroo striker says he only knows what he has read in the media.

"As far as I can see it's all speculation.

"No-one has definitely said which club the scouts represent, and as far as I am concerned no-one has made any contact with me," he stated.

Trimboli earlier this year spent a few weeks trialling with Rangers in Scotland and has a firm offer to return to Glas-



PAUL TRIMBOLI

gow for more trials in 1991.

The sun shines for Blanco

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

RAUL BLANCO, Melita Eagles' likeable South American coach, is starting to slowly smile as he watches his team play some of the most attractive football in the NSL.

It has been said of late that Melita is one of the most attractive sides to watch.

I, for one, fully endorse this.

But it hasn't always been sunshine and roses for Blanco over the last few years.

In the cut-throat business of coaching, Blanco has had more than his share of disasters and bad luck.

He has been at the helm of two NSL clubs that have suffered the ultimate indignation of relegation.

Both St George and Melita have been relegated whilst Blanco was at the helm.

But we hasten to add that on both occasions, Blanco was NOT at fault.

In the first case, St George had lost too many star players and Blanco was expected to keep the team afloat, a herculean task without top players.

In the second case, Melita had just been promoted that year into the NSL and they found the gap in standard between NSW State League and the NSL too tough to handle.



RAUL BLANCO

But Blanco stuck to his task and last season piloted Melita back into the NSL.

Without the luxury of a reasonable break, Melita held their own and with the aid of a couple of signings, Blanco cemented Melita's stay in the premier league.

With a settled squad this year, Melita has developed into a fast, fluent side that can do battle with the NSL's heavyweights.

In fact, only last Sunday week, they downed the current NSL champions, Sydney Olympic, 1-0.

Blanco came to Australia in the early 60s to play with the now-defunct club, Prague.

As a midfielder, Blanco was always artistic and creative.

Today, with his basic knowledge and experience of South American football, Blanco has Melita playing a style of soccer alien to the Australian scene today, but reminiscent of the great Prague team of the 60s.

This stocky, quick-witted maestro has imported three top South American players and has been most successful in welding them into a side that was basically Australian-born.

Sweeper Washington



HUGO GIMENEZ — Argentinian artist.

Gonzalez, centre-back Alfredo Barrios and the dynamic, chunky midfielder, Hugo Gimenez, have been delighting fans with the brilliant Latin American style favoured by Blanco.

Blanco, with still vivid mental scars of years gone by when he seemed destined to languish at the bottom of NSL ladders, no longer takes risks.

This season he wanted to sharpen his attack and despite constant negative advice, he boldly signed fiery striker Marshall Soper to link up with ace goalscorer, Greg Brown.

To go and watch Melita Eagles play today, you must expect to witness one-touch, fast attacking football.

You will also expect to see a stack of shots on goal, heaps of skills and tonnes of creativity.

The side has the ability to 'suck-out' opponents, then kill them off with a lethal counter-attack.

Every player in the Melita side can play. And by play, I mean play soccer, not your usual kick-and-run stuff.

Even 'tough-guy' Craig Mason, when he first arrived at Melita, was told in no uncertain manner by Blanco that he wanted ball players, not destroyers.

Mason has completely changed his style, and this previous 'hit-man' has become creative.

Today, Melita boasts some exciting material.

Bolstering the central South American defence are Craig Williams and Scott O'Donnell.

Both tough, and both can play.

Melita's 'gear-box' revolves around Gimenez, and also has polish (pardon the pun) on the right side in Polish Jarek Nowicki and

in on Jeff Olver's goals. Three hit the woodwork.

Melita's off-the-ball-running is executed with intelligence to rip open gaps for the ball carrier who has almost invariably more than one option when releasing possession.

Such is Melita's degree of attack-mindedness that they have paid the penalty more than once in the past two seasons.

You will see Melita leading a match with only minutes to go, yet they are still pushing up looking for more goals.

As Blanco told ASW recently, "It is not good enough being labelled the 'entertainers of the NSL'. We need points.

"It is so very difficult to contain my players. It is in their blood and they all want to have a go.

"I have been caught screaming from the bench... 'Back, back'... but all to no avail.

"Maybe I should change and yell 'Attack, attack... English or Spanish, it makes no difference.

"The Melita lads love to attack. It's like the West Ham of old... They were great entertainers but always paid the penalty by ending near the bottom of the ladder," Blanco re-

young Gus Cerro, while on the left, the ever-tenacious Geoff Gunning helps wear opponents down.

Andy Callanan has been used by Blanco in the back-four as well as in the 'middle-line' with outstanding success.

A few weeks ago, I watched possibly the best NSL match I've seen the last five seasons.



MARSHALL SOPER — entertainer "par excellence".

It was Melita's complete annihilation of visiting Heidelberg.

The final scoreline was 'only' 4-0 but it could easily have been 8-0 or 9-0.

All night shots rained

minded us. But Blanco is worrying needlessly I feel this season.

I expect Melita to break into the Top Five in the next six weeks or so.

That was the year that was!

BY TED SIMMONS of AAP

AUSTRALIAN soccer started the year in its usual state of confusion with an inquiry into a crowd disturbance, power struggles and the uncertain future of its national team and coach.

But the world code has ended the 12 months looking in better shape in Australia than at any time in the past quarter century.

Out went the old and in came the new — Sydney solicitor John Constantine became president of Australian soccer, replacing Queensland's Ian Brusasco, and was also appointed to the Youth Committee of FIFA and management consultant Dr Graham Bradley released his in-depth investigation into the game in Australia.

Frank Arok, after an Olympic Games and

Ex-Liverpudlian Craig Johnston accepted appointment as Australia's Youth Ambassador, Mike Wells became National Director of Coaching, Steve Darby National Development Officer and national women's coach and various States edged into promotions and development.

However, just to make sure Australia didn't become too complacent, FIFA again ripped Oceania with a body blow by decreeing the regional winner in the qualifying rounds for the 1994 World Cup would have to play off



EDDIE THOMSON

in the 100 years history of the game here.

Replacement of the unwieldy 17-member interstate executive with a chief executive and commissioners to streamline administration was long overdue.

So were the decisions to revise the constitution, appoint a marketing manager and finance controller and reduce the NSL to a 14-team competition.

NSL clubs stridently opposed the Bradley proposal to restrict Sydney and Melbourne to four teams each in the

a great workout in Chile.

The Socceroos face touring Czechoslovakia in January while the other three teams have to overcome Oceania qualifying rounds next year for world championships and the Barcelona Olympics.

There is also the Socceroo team in self-imposed exile overseas, consisting of leading players who have switched to Europe to earn fame and fortune.

Among them are Frank Farina, Chris Kalantzis, Jim Patikas, Jason Polak, Graham Arnold, Gary van Egmond, Robbie Slater, Vlado Bozinovski and Jason van Blerk.

Finally, there was the third visit to Australia by world legend Pelé.

The occasion was to help celebrate his 50th birthday and to continue his publicity for the FIFA Fair Play campaign and his unstinting support for the world's under-privileged children.

Pelé was swamped at his public appearances, with lines of children and adults waiting to see

Allan Evans' top playing history



Allan Evans (right) in action during Scotland's 5-2 1982 World Cup win over New Zealand.

FORMER Scottish international Allan Evans is the man appointed to co-ordinate Brisbane's bid for a team in the National League.

He has vast experience and is a great choice for the Sunshine State. And at 34, he is still fully fit to take the field as a player!

Here is his football history:

Age: 34 years

Date of Birth: 12.10.56

Allan spent most of his early life travelling the world due to his father's work commitment with the RAF. Allan Evans started playing football at the age of 13 with Dunfermline Athletic in the under 14-16 grades.

At the age of 16, Allan became a full time professional player with Dunfermline Athletic and his debut was against Glasgow Rangers where in this match he broke his leg.

For Dunfermline, Allan Evans played as defender and striker. During this time he was selected for the Scottish youth team and played against teams from Denmark, England and Holland.

In 1977, at the age of 21, Allan transferred to Aston Villa for a fee of \$75,000. Aston Villa signed Allan as a striker, and after 12 games reverted him to the centre half position. He captained Aston Villa from 1983-1989 and he played 500 matches between 1977-1989 (third highest in club history).

During his playing time with Aston Villa, the club achieved:

- 1981 League Championship
- 1982 European Cup against Bayern Munich, won 1-0
- 1983 European Super Cup, defeating Barcelona 3-1 over two games.
- 1983 World Championship against Penarol from South America, match played in Tokyo, defeated 2-0.

Continued playing First Division through to his testimonial year in 1988/89 with Aston Villa. 1989 transferred to Leicester City for one season.

Trophies Won: 1982 Best Defender — English League, Division 1.

International Caps: 1982-83 Allan Evans was capped four times for Scotland. He was selected for Scotland's national squad to play Holland, Northern Ireland and England.

World Cup: 1982-83 Allan was included in Scotland's World Cup squad and played in the opening match against New Zealand which Scotland won 5-2.

During 1990 Allan and his family moved to Canada for a playing stint with Victoria Vistas, half way through the season he took over as coach. While in Canada, Allan was voted "Best Import of the Year".

Appearances:

- Dunfermline — 109 appearances.
- Aston Villa — 466 appearances.
- Football League — 374 appearances, five goals
- F.A.C. — 26 appearances, three goals.
- Littlewoods Cup — 42 appearances, six goals.
- UEFA Cup — 4 appearances.
- European Champions' Cup — 12 appearances
- European Super Cup — two appearances
- World Cup Championship — one appearance
- FA Charity Shield — one appearance
- Full Members' Cup — two appearances, one goal.
- Simod Cup — two appearances, one goal.

No Pele visit to New Zealand

Pelé won't be coming to the Oceania Junior World Cup qualifiers in Napier next month, but has been invited for the NZFA's centenary celebrations later in the year.

NZFA chairman Warwick Gendall said Pelé had turned down the invitation to attend the Under 17 play-offs in Hawkes Bay because he had a prior commitment.

However, he sent his best wishes for the tournament.

Now the NZFA have invited him to the centenary dinner in March in Wellington or some of the other centenary celebrations between March and May.



LES SCHEINFLUG

two World Cup campaigns, decided to retire and Eddie Thomson

against the North American runner-up and then the fourth-placed team in South America.

On the club scene, Sydney Olympic finally lost its 'bridesmaid' tag in winning its first National League premiership, the Socceroos won the series against touring side Hajduk Split, teenager David Seal burst on to the scene as NSL top scorer and Zeljko Adzic was the 'Player of the Year'.

And tiny Tasmania flexed its muscle with a tobacco sponsorship which directly opposed the major ASF 'Quit for Life' sponsor, leading to a motion for the island State's suspension.

The most important story to affect Australian soccer was the Bradley report and the outstanding results it seems likely to achieve



CRAIG JOHNSTON

and Les Scheinflug were appointed fulltime national coaches.



PELÉ

regionalised 1991-92 competition to allow extension of the competition around Australia.

They will also have a further hurdle to overcome in meeting the strict criteria on finances, grounds, players and viability and now have only months to get their house into order.

Another bonus was the decision to bring the four national teams — Socceroos, Olympic Games, Under 20 and Under 17 — under the direct control of Thomson and Scheinflug, who also had the power to co-opt any other coaches to assist.

It didn't take the national coaches long to get into action with the Socceroos in August winning an Indonesian Cup tournament but then losing two matches to South Korea, the Olympic Games team toured Europe and the Under 17 squad gained

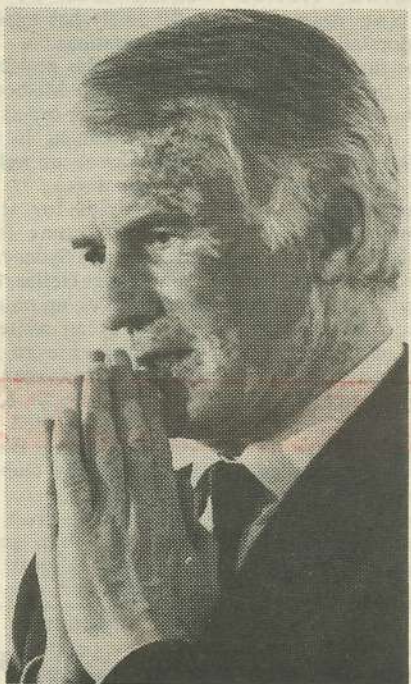
him at football grounds and book signings and members of the media joining the queue for interviews.



FRANK FARINA

His superb skill, temperament and remarkable sportsmanship point to the need to bring much more of the fundamental elements back to the game — an area which is undoubtedly on the ASF agenda.

The needs for the game in Australia are clear and only time will tell whether the clubs and the Australian Soccer Federation have done their homework.



Frank Arok

Boutsianis more than just a "super-sub"

BY DAVID BULLOCK

SOUTH Melbourne Hellas teenage sensation Con Boutsianis would rather not have the tag of "super-sub" that has been bestowed upon him if given the choice.

The 18-year-old striker will find his tag hard to shake going by his performances so far this season when he has been called upon to take the field.

His goal against Brunswick Juventus broke the deadlock and clinched Hellas the Gold Cup final, while he was up to his unique style of entry against Melita Eagles earlier in the season, when he set up the equaliser and then capped off his performance by ramming home the winning goal.

But Boutsianis has never been shy when the chance to score a goal is presented and has a superb record in the Hellas youth team over the past two seasons.

After missing the first five matches of the 1988 season, Boutsianis went on to score 26 goals, he then went on the rampage again last season, netting 32 goals, while he missed out on playing in seven fixtures.

Boutsianis, despite his tender age, had a season in the Victorian State League in 1987 with Caulfield City, with first team experience behind him and a successful conversion rate, a regular first team berth still has to be earned and Boutsianis is not going to rest on his laurels as he sets about building his career.

"You have to work hard and that means doing as much as possible on your own. It's very important as well to keep fit and with 18 players in the squad, you basically have to be patient and take your chances when they come", said Boutsianis.

He went on to add: "It's very important for me personally to come on and play well and help contribute to the team's performance, rather than just come on and score and not play well."

"The super-sub tag is not what it's meant to be either. I just came on and was presented with the chances to score and I did".

Like many youngsters, Boutsianis has ambitions of one day trying his luck overseas once he has established himself as a regular at Souths.

"I think the earlier you go and try your luck, the easier it is, while if you leave it too long it is harder to get a chance."

"If the chance ever arises, yes, I would take it, but I don't intend leaving Hellas just yet".

With Souths having such a dream start to the season, Boutsianis is confident of the team's



South Melbourne's starlet Con Boutsianos. — Pic by JOE MONTEMURRO.

chances for honours in both the League and Cup.

"The club is setting a high goal this season. We want to win both the competitions, the League more so than the Cup because we missed out last season, but I still feel that Marconi is the team to beat".

The inception of playing soccer in the summer months is greeted warmly by Boutsianis, though he is very critical of some of the poor conditions of the grounds around the country at present.

"It's pretty good playing at six or seven o'clock in the evening and it is near perfect when the temperature is

around 20 degrees".

Adding further fuel to the fire, Boutsianis went on to add: "Players just can't cope with all the different surfaces that they come across, an example of this is with Steve Tassios who has trouble with his feet and is not helped in recovering by the rock hard grounds."

"Our home ground, Middle Park, isn't too bad, though it can get very hard when it hasn't been watered for a while, but overall it is probably one of the better pitches".

But Boutsianis plans to battle on regardless of the obstacles and is sure to be a favourite with the Hellas fans for a long time to come.

Taller players the order of the day

BY DR JERZY WRZOS

FOLLOWING FIFA's idea to alter the size of goals, observations have been made regarding the selection of taller players for the position of goalkeeper.

Attention is drawn to the heights of both past and present players.

Already in the 60s and 70s, soccer experts regarded about 170cm to be the ideal height for players.

Their opinion was supported by the fact that soccer stars of those days were of that height e.g. Matthews and Pelé 171cm, Puskas and Hamrin 170cm, Seeler and Garrincha 169cm.

However, we find excellent players who are taller, more frequently.

Every team of high standard has more tall players e.g. in the Toyota Cup final in Tokyo, the AC Milan

players were: Marco van Basten (187cm), Frank Rijkaard (188cm), F. Galli (184cm), Ruud Gullit (188cm).

Similarly, there were many tall players in the Olimpia side from Paraguay such as Monzon (184cm) or Amarilla (188cm).

Likewise, most teams at Italia '90 had many tall players.

But we must not forget that there were excellent players of average height such as Lothar Matthaus (174cm), "Toto" Schillaci (174cm), Franco Baresi (176cm), Ruben Sosa (172cm), as well as Diego Maradona who was only 168cm.

Sunshine is beaming ahead

BY TONY ABATE

IT is one of Australian soccer's ironies that Sunshine George Cross is constantly dubbed as one of the NSL's 'poorest' relations.

The 'Georgie' faithful in recent years have become accustomed to predictions by critics that relegation and financial Armageddon are imminent.

In reality, however, the opposite is true.

The club's progressive look and its high standard of organisation ensure that it should remain a viable NSL entity for many years to come.

The George Cross committee are all fully aware that the days of planning on a week to week basis are gone.

The NSL has evolved to such an extent that careful planning of future financial resources, team management, and regional development are paramount to a club's overall prosperity.

It is no secret that Sunshine George Cross are not exactly one of the country's leading financial heavyweights, but steps are being taken by the committee to alleviate this problem.

The club is currently running out the last year of its contract with the Transport Accident Commission, valued at \$60,000.

However, club secretary, Alf Zahara, is quite confident that it can obtain another two years of funding from the Commission since it has promoted the anti-drinking campaign so effectively.

In addition to this, the club has recently employed a marketing company to scout for further sponsorship.

Whilst Zahara maintains that "every player in the club is available for the right price", it is clear that Cross want to preserve their current squad of young hopefuls.

The committee is of the obvious opinion that greater sponsorship will mean a sounder financial base.

Hence it is hoped player sales will not be as critical as they once were to ensure financial viability.

From a player perspective, Ernie Merrick has assembled one of the most skilful young sides in the competition.

However, as much as youth can be a bonus, it can also be a weakness.

There is no doubting the ability and skill of players like Lorenz Kindtner, Frank Talia, Gary Hasler and David Clarkson, but through no fault of their own they have no experienced 'general' to lead them out of trouble during a match's critical periods.

There is no doubt the club needs someone of the Jeff Faulkner mould at the moment to help nurture these youngsters on the field.

The club is acting on this deficiency, and has plans to view a current Maltese international in the near future.

By the same token, despite the club's indifferent start to the season, it should only be a matter of time before these players mature to change the emphasis from survival to success.

Sunshine has also outlined a policy in trying to maintain and expand its supporter base.

Whilst the club is still essentially aligned to the Maltese community, according to secretary Zahara efforts are currently underway to promote the game throughout the whole of the western suburbs.

During home games all under-14 children are admitted free of charge.

This policy is directly aimed at fathers who can interest their young children for no extra cost.

In addition to this, the club has extended an open invitation to all primary schools within the region to take part in free coaching clinics.

The aim of the exercise is not so much to find talent, but to form an appreciation of the game so that they will one day form the backbone of the supporter base.



DAVID CLARKSON — one of Sunshine's talented players the club is counting on this season — STEVE GOSCH photo.

Despite what critics may say about Sunshine George Cross, they are by no means a soccer minnow.

By being past winners of the Australia, Dockerty, Ampol and State League Cups they have

built a proud legacy of past success.

This success should continue due to a forward-thinking attitude towards sponsorship, the playing squad and regional development.

Souvenir shop success story

BY GREG BLAKE

THE South Melbourne Hellas souvenir and pro-shop is fast developing into the success story of the season in Melbourne.

In the space of just six home games, the pro-shop, situated at South Melbourne's Middle Park home ground, has become the first stop for fans coming into the ground on match-days.

According to South Melbourne Hellas marketing manager Barry Horsfall the club shop, the first of its kind amongst the NSL clubs in Melbourne, has increased its turnover by over 500 percent since it opened on day one of the current season.

Although other Melbourne NSL clubs have attempted to follow suit the South Melbourne pro-shop is still one out in terms of the items it stocks and the professional service it provides.

Situated outside the social club the pro-shop, if you can push through the crowds to see the range of goods on sale, stocks not only the hats, scarves, balls and flags in the Hellas colours, but also a tremendous range of international gear.

According to Horsfall the next biggest sellers behind the South Melbourne range of products are those from English clubs Liverpool and Manchester United.

"The whole thing has really taken off," Horsfall told ASW.

"It really has exceeded all expectations."

Such is the popularity of the South Melbourne pro-shop that orders for gear are coming in during the week as well as on match days.

Enquiries for stock have also come from Adelaide and Sydney.

Far-flung Hellas fans keen to stock up on club souvenirs can write to the club, care of the marketing manager, at PO Box 2064, St Kilda West, Victoria, 3182.

Or just ring Barry Horsfall at the club on (03) 534-5462.

All proceeds from the Hellas pro-shop go to the club's schools development fund.

Obtain
ASW
every
Monday!

More South American contact sought

Exclusive Les Scheinflug interview by MARIO ETCHART

THE recent success of the Australian under 17 team in South America has opened new horizons for the code in this country.

More contact with that continent will be of great benefit, not only for our youth but for Australian soccer as a whole.

That is the opinion of Les Scheinflug, Raul Blanco and Eddie Thomson, who travelled with the Joeys to Argentina and Chile.

The two victories over the Chilean national under 17 team were the highlights of the three-week tour, and for Les Scheinflug not only was it a surprise but also a very useful experience for his Joeys just before the qualifying rounds of the World Cup in Napier, New Zealand, next month.

"Before we left, we didn't know what to expect from this tour," Scheinflug admitted.

"I knew we were supposed to have two friendly internationals against Chile, which were of great value to us, but the way it turned out the trip exceeded all my expectations.

"Training facilities, playing in front of big crowds, appearing in First Division curtain-raisers and training with Chilean First Division players, sharing their camps and experiencing first hand a type of soccer we do not see in Australia was magical and a tremendous boost for the Australian players.

Television

"We see that type of football on television, but it is not the same than seeing it with your own eyes.

"For the first time the lads really realised that soccer can be played like chess, keeping position, holding the ball, knocking the ball around until an opening is created...

"Although, at the beginning of the tour, our players lacked confidence, after a few matches they discovered that they had to be more assertive on the park.

"As a result, they started playing the ball around more. It is so hot and humid in Chile that you just can't run all over the place. You must make the ball run for you.

"We couldn't waste balls. We couldn't give it to the opposition as much as we did early on tour. And the more we played, I think the better we became."

The Chilean Soccer Federation, as well as the local coaches, were very impressed with the Joeys, and Scheinflug is very grateful for all the support the squad received in Chile.

"The local federation and the clubs went out of their way to help us," he said.

Scheinflug also revealed that Chile's First Division and youth coaches felt that the Joeys were physically stronger than the Chilean players of the same age, however, technically, the locals were a class above their Aussie counterparts.

"Our boys compensated for their inferiority in skills by their great inner strength and never-say-die spirit," Scheinflug said.

Spirit

"We have displayed this spirit for years. Aussies don't like losing.

"The Chilean coaches helped us a lot after the two wins against Chile.

"They brought in older players into their teams; 19 and 20-year olds, and even a couple of First Division professionals.

"In the last two games, against Universidad de Chile and Colo Colo, we played against reserve grade, full-time professionals, and although we lost to them 3-1 and 2-0, such results were not a true reflection of the games.

"We matched them all the way.

"We have to consider that we played five matches in nine days, and Universidad de Chile and Catolica have the best two youth teams in the country."

Les Scheinflug believes that if we can blend our physical strength with the skills and ability of the South American players, we could be a recognised force in world soccer.

"Definitely, and this is where I must give credit to coach Hans Marotzke, who has been with FIFA for many years and who has travelled to every country in the world," said Scheinflug.

"He told me in Fiji earlier this year that the best youth set-up in the world was in Chile because they have full-time coaches at top level, full-time junior coaches, full-time players, and so on, in every First Division club.

"Of course, we can't match this in Australia where we have coaches who look after junior teams twice or three times a week, and that's not enough.

"In South America, the players come from school and train five times a week and play at the weekend.

"I think we are not soccer-hungry enough in Australia.

"In Chile you can see the joy in the eyes of the players whenever they have the opportunity to use the ball, and they will use it with confidence.

"That's something we have to adopt in this country, as well as training every day."

Scheinflug supports the idea of greater contact with South American football.



South American players like this Argentine international may soon be role models for Aussie players.

"I mentioned to my players from the start, that we have to learn to be confident, to believe in our ability. And that was what we learned over there," he said.

"The Chilean players though physically smaller than ours, were arrogant and believed in their own ability.

"In the first game we played against Chile, one of their boys went to Eduardo Pena and said to him: Why are you on the pitch? We are going to eat you alive."

"We have to improve our individual skills and team work.

"For skills we must go to South America. There is no doubt about it. We can learn from them because they play soccer the way it should be played..."

"They keep the ball on the ground, are always very composed, play possession football, never give the ball away, mount quick breaks and when in

trouble, everybody works to recuperate the ball.

"That's modern soccer.

"They play it to perfection.

Surprise

"I was surprised with Chile. Chilean First Division soccer has improved a lot since 1987," Scheinflug commented.

On the subject of scholarship exchanges between the AIS and clubs like Universidad Catolica of Chile, the Australian youth coach is very much in favour.

"I think lots of things could be done," he said.

"Young goalkeeper John Crawley, who went to Colo Colo, has improved enormously since the day I had him at Blacktown with the youth squad. He's been training on a daily basis.

"It would be tremendous to be able to send four or five players every year to Chile

to give them two or three months of training there, and see what soccer is all about.

"I'm sure that Chile would be quite happy to agree to player exchanges."

According to Les Scheinflug, several clubs and the Chilean national side are interested in touring Australia.

"Yes, they made it clear to Eddie Thomson and myself that they want to send their national team to Australia and Universidad Catolica, Union Espanola and Colo Colo also showed the same interest.

"That is the type of football the Australian fans would love to see and we would benefit greatly as we can learn from them."

After their South American venture the Joeys, according to Scheinflug, have improved their chances of qualifying for the World Cup.

"I have to be confident. I have to believe in my players, but I also have respect for New Zealand, Vanuatu, Papua New Guinea and Tahiti," he said.

"You have to be cautious, but I will say that, we left for the tour with kids and came back with grown men.

About our young stars, the likes of Paul Okon, Ned Zelic and David Seal, Les Scheinflug believes that because of their talents and skills, they could do well playing in South America.

"Give those players 12 months in South America and they will be stars; because not only do they have the

natural ability and strength, but also lots of skill.

"In South America they would polish their skills by playing with better players. They would definitely improve their game all round."

The Australian coach found Argentine, Uruguayan and Chilean soccer very similar, with no great differences in style.

"Actually, the standard is very similar in all three countries," he said.

"The confidence with the ball is exceptional.

"I watched the game between Boca Juniors of Argentina and Penarol of Uruguay and found Penarol tactically superb and well prepared.

"With simplicity in their football and with

importance, but in the opinion of Scheinflug that may not be realistic.

"I think everybody would like the exchange," he said.

"Let's put it this way, it would be lovely to be able to say: OK, top coach from South America comes here for a month, works with a team here. We do the same thing over there and we can benefit both. But I don't think that will ever happen.

"What we should do is to go there for a month to work with a top coach in Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay or Chile. This way you get that extra little bit of light into your coaching."

Scheinflug concluded this in-depth interview by again stating that we have to improve our junior set-up.



Les Scheinflug (left) and Raul Blanco in a decidedly Latin American mood.

the will to win.

"They played to win, they went ahead, and after, they closed the game up to perfection.

"These are the things you can learn from South American clubs."

The possibility of exchanges at coaches level is something of great

"This is where we have to catch up," he said.

"It's just not good enough to have the kids' parents as coaches. We need recognised coaches to train our youth — and preferably every day at that."

ST GEORGE vs APIA LEICH



St George Soccer Stadium

88 Bestic St, Rockdale

Sunday, January 6 7pm

Youth League: St George v Apia 5pm

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SOUTH AUSTRALIAN SOCCER SCENE

WITH ALAN CLARK



ADELAIDE City will make a sponsorship announcement early in the new year.

The new backer is expected to be a local company which long has supported the SA Soccer Federation.

Marketing boss, Dave Jenkins, confirmed the deal had been signed and sealed but said an announcement would be made after Christmas.

"We also are in the early stages of negotiations with a Japanese company," he said.

★★★

FIRST Division newcomer Blackwood has named Arthur Ruttle as its coaching chief for next season.

The experienced Englishman is likely to have former club assistant coach Dave Pillans "involved informally" in his coaching team. Ruttle takes over from Tommy Preston, who is starting a business venture in Scotland.

★★★

FIXTURES for the coming Foundation SA League season, West End Premier Cup and PGH Federation Cups will be priority items on the agenda of the new First Division Management Committee's first meeting in the new year.

The committee was to have met on Wednesday but that was cancelled as a SA Soccer Federation board meeting was scheduled.

★★★

THE two sides of the summer soccer sizzle were shown in the glamour Adelaide City and Marconi clash at Hindmarsh.

Fans love it and turned up in their droves. A crowd of 5500 was the official figure but there looked to be oceans more.

The poor players, though, suffered. They

faced hot, humid, energy-sapping conditions.

"I really struggled to get breath in the second half," said City goal hero Aurelio Vidmar, one of the fittest on show. "It was really hard work."

★★★

SA soccer bosses soon hope to name a successor to Mike Wells as general manager of the SA Soccer Federation.

Negotiations are going on.

But vice-chairman Basil Scarsella said the SA Soccer Federation had "targeted a couple of people" for the job.

"We have spoken with one person and the matter will be discussed by the board," he said.

"We shall have to talk over if he is suitable and if he is interested in the post.

"Depending on what transpires we could advertise or not advertise the position. But we must make a decision by January at the latest."

★★★

THE bumper crowd and electric atmosphere at Hindmarsh when Adelaide City downed Marconi left no-one in any doubt SA soccer can support the big time.

And it admirably backed the Bradley Report recommendation for two SA teams to be included in next season's revamped NSL.

New national soccer commissioner Scarsella claimed the support base was there for SA to field two club sides.

"People were very enthusiastic about Sunday's game," he said. "Apart from the lights situation, it was a great night and the fans would be happy to go back again this week. But there is no game. That could be remedied next season when another SA club should be in the League.

"If the second club



Carl Veart, the Adelaide City starlet, in Round 1 NSL Cup action against South Melbourne at Hindmarsh Stadium. — Picture by Janusz Kamma.

was to do well, there would be a roll-on of fans keen to watch the action. That would have to be good for soccer in this State."

The new body of commissioners by February will set criteria for clubs to meet for inclusion in the new 14-team league. They should be based on such factors as results, finances, facilities, crowd base and junior development.

★★★

NEW Lion coach Dave Baker held a get-to-know-you meeting with players last week.

Baker, who took Lion into the First Division during a previous six-year spell with the club, took over last week after Mike Kavalenti resigned.

"It will be good to outline just what we plan for next season," said Baker. "All registered players and intending players are welcome.

"After my previous time here, I have al-

ways wanted to come back to Lion. It just has happened a bit sooner than I expected. I was in the right place at the right time."

Hellas, meanwhile, has held a players' meeting to discuss the new season.

Coach Alby Kidd laid out the line just what he wanted for 1991.

★★★

ALEX Tobin is showing just why he now is an almost automatic selection for the Soceroos.

Cool and cultured as ever, the Adelaide City man showed against Marconi he has added a real bit to his play.

David Seal and David Lowe will vouch for the ferocity of some tackles.

Tobin outclassed Soceroo rival Steve Calderan on the night.

★★★

FORMER Soceroo Martyn Crook should know what he is talking about on goalkeepers.

So there is no surprise now, as coach of Para Hills, he is negotiating to lure Howie Jacques out of a year in the wilderness.

Jacques did not play last season but is likely to sign with Para.

Para has signed Elizabeth City striker Tony Reeves.

★★★

AMPOL is to launch its record-making 32nd Ampol Cup night series with a barbecue lunch on Saturday, January 12 at Hindmarsh Stadium.

The prestige series, which is as Australian as Ampol, gets under way the following Wednesday (January 16) with a clash from 7.30pm between Polonia and Beograd. Hol-

der Croatia meets Adelaide City at 9pm.

Games will be held each Wednesday until the final on March 6.

Posters, publicising the pre-season tournament, have been distributed and clubs will attend the launch.

The move back to Wednesdays looks good and clubs should give the proud sponsor the proper backing by playing as strong squads as they can muster.

★★★

ONE more floodlighting failure could have denied Adelaide City their fabulous, fighting 1-0 NSL win over marvellous Marconi at Hindmarsh Stadium.

Power failure twice blacked out the champagne game. And referee Tom McRoe revealed later that, after the second blackout just before half-time, he warned officials they had 10 minutes to rectify the problem or he would abandon the game.

"It was just too important a game to be played in 10-minute segments," said the whistler.

Meanwhile, the updated floodlighting system at Hindmarsh Stadium is unlikely to be completed in time for the Ampol Cup start in mid-January.

Contractual delays in the Government-backed scheme reportedly have held it up. Now a Christmas break of workers further will delay progress.

That is not good news after the blackouts.



Shellharbour will push for strength

BY OTTO BADER

SHELLHARBOUR's new coach, Bob Fryer, is looking above all to the club's own talent for his future squads.

Experienced players like last season's team captain Scott Fowler, brother Brad, defenders Phil Cook, Kerry Leslie, keeper Tony Markovski, Stan Pappas, plus midfielders Craig Mason, Harvey and Fernando Escribano, youngster Zivko Jovanovski, Wayne Barrett and strikers Andy Cliss, Paul Keating, Dare Petreski, Lou Marras, Mark Mason will have the opportunity to shine.

Ambitious youth grade players like Tony Coussens, Jason Pendlebury, Dean Ranzi, keeper Steve Micevski, Phil Morris, Anthony Stojcevski, Steve Petrovski, Nick Kotevski, Guy Tiltman, and experienced reserve graders Nick Lordkovic, Danny Toskoski, Bobby Stankovic, Sasha Krstevski, Sasha Sekulovski, Yono Neloski, Darren Beaton, Billy Kyriakidis and David Laidlaw are all expected back into full training as from Tuesday, January 15, 1991 on grounds next to the Warilla Bowling Club.

Some players dropped out in the season due to injuries.

Striker Greg Crowl and Ian Bradburn could very well join again.

Shellharbour needs to attract players living in the area to join the only Premier League Club south of Windang Bridge.

Central defenders like Drago Cikic and Klaus Wunsch have shown interest.

When this year's transfer list is out, it will be seen who is available and perhaps a private sponsor could provide a couple of strong players for Shellharbour.

Club members or supporters are asked to seek business support for junior and senior teams again.

The past year has been very good, with most junior sides being sponsored like the senior grades.

Coach Bob Fryer is looking at players like Nicky Greathead (a former Shellharbour junior) and Colin Carragher, or perhaps Barry Robinson, to rejoin Shellharbour.

Also players well known in soccer circles like Robert Gonzalez, Greg Fisher, John Gooding, Sony Pentalon, Ivan Sovrano, all fierce competitors, would be of immense value to Shellharbour.

With good backing from all supporters, the club can field a top team.

Shellharbour Soccer Club training, to be attended by all players, kicks off once a week in January, on Tuesday 15 at 6.30pm, and twice a week from Tuesday, February 12.

It is important all intending players do join in early.

Shellharbour Soccer Club goes into the 25th year of its existence in 1991 and has developed from humble beginnings with juniors teams into a solid Premier League Soccer Club.

It is the aim to progress successfully next season, fostering young players to make the top grade.

This year's U15 and U16s are invited to attend senior training to trial for the U19 team.

This coaching position has not yet been filled, and neither has the reserve grade coach.

Candidates have expressed interest and appointments should be made early next year.

Don't miss out and join Shellharbour for the 1991 season.

The club is coached by an established soccer personality in Bob Fryer, the English professional formerly with Birmingham City, a man who has seen it all before and his vast experience will no doubt benefit club and players alike.

LETTER

THE good crowds at Adelaide City matches prove eloquently that Adelaide must have two teams in the National League.

The loss of Adelaide Hellas this season means less revenue and a smaller end of season attendance for the National League.

Though newly promoted Heidelberg can also draw the fans through the turnstiles, I believe that an NSL with two Adelaide teams is the only way to go.

I can't wait for the Bradley Report to be implemented.

I will then be able to watch a game every week.

I am a neutral fan, but support any local club side competing in the National League as many uncommitted soccer fans do in South Australia.

AL KAITSCHUK
PARA HILLS, SA



Part of the bumper crowd at Hindmarsh Stadium for the recent thriller between Adelaide City and Marconi — JANUSA KAMMA photo.

Young Adam realises dream

BY ROBERT WHEATLEY

THE passport of current Marconi under 19 midfielder Adam Whan will attract an amazing degree of attention as he completes a world-wide itinerary that would rival the dreams of any young player in Australia and leave them breathless.

By the end of February 1991 Adam will have completed three major overseas trips, both as a triallist with European-based clubs and as a member of the Australian schoolboys' squad.

His most recent foray saw him receive invaluable experience in a month-long stint with England's finest club side — Liverpool.

players who received training at Chelsea and Norwich City as part of the Big Brother Movement to improve the performances of talented players.

South East Asia

The second part of Adam's soccer education stems from his selection in the Australian schoolboys' team,



"Ever since he was a developing player he has exhibited incredible



Adam Whan poses with Liverpool great, English international John Barnes.

Adam still has to pinch himself to be reminded of how well he was treated by all the Liverpool players and management.

"To visit Anfield and their trophy room is a special feeling, but to have John Barnes and Peter Beardsley sit down after a morning training session and give you advice on improvements that can be made to your game was simply out of this world," he enthused.

"Their training grounds were comparable to Marconi's main stadium at its best, and meeting 'King' Kenny Dalglish was something that will never be forgotten," he added.

Not only did Whan gain confidence from the regular training, but he was also given an insight into why Australian players are more than capable of holding down a regular place in European-based clubs.

"Liverpool has recently signed an Irish midfielder who was 18 for \$750,000 and I honestly felt I matched him in all aspects of the game," he said.

Little wonder then that the exodus of top Aussie youngsters is bearing fruit in Holland, Belgium, Greece, Yugoslavia and France.

Adam was selected by NSW Director of Coaching, David Lee, for his trip to Liverpool together with five other



Meeting Kenny Dalglish — a never to be forgotten experience for the young globetrotter.

and will allow him to travel with an exciting squad of players throughout South East Asia in January.

Without even returning from Asia, Adam will head for Europe to complete the trifecta of tantalising trips that will provide the grounding for what he anticipates will be a solid soccer career.

This final adventure is the result of being named Marconi's Young Player of the Year in early 1990, and enables Whan to spend time with top European clubs in Belgium and Italy.

The strengths that have ensured him of such priceless opportunities are described by David Lee in the following assessment of Whan's playing ability.

physical determination, and his aerial strength and sound techniques for a tall build have served him well," Lee commented.

"He certainly has the potential to fill any of the back seven positions in a National Soccer League team within the next few years," Lee added.

Irrespective of what the future holds in terms of career success and longevity in the game, Adam Whan has been the recipient of a perfect preparation that would well and truly be the springboard for his soccer plans to take off.

LEGACY
still needs
your help
Please send donations
to your nearest Legacy office.

A manual useful for all

BY STEVE DARBY

STEVE DARBY, National Development Officer, reveals in his weekly column some of the national initiatives developed from within the ASF.

If you are reading this column, then the first initiative brought about by the ASF Development Programme will be of little use to you.

If that statement doesn't make sense, then let me explain the reason behind it.

If you are an avid reader of "Australian Soccer Weekly", then you are probably a soccer fanatic who loves the game, played the game, watches it on TV and takes every opportunity to involve yourself in soccer.

However, the vast majority of players in Australia are introduced to the game by enthusiastic coaches who have never played the game.

They may be the father of a young girl who is playing at primary school and the team needs a coach and all he has played in his life is rugby league, or the case of the little boy who comes home and says: "Mum, I've just said you would coach our club team." And all she has done is seen soccer on TV!

So the ASF Development Programme has developed a coaching manual which will help the beginner coach.

The manual will serve two purposes.

Firstly, it will help the beginner coaches enjoy their coaching, as it will give them almost a cook book of basic skills and coaching hints.

Secondly, and most importantly, it will greatly enhance the chances of the young players enjoying their first experiences in the game.

All the educational and social research has shown that children in this era will stay in the sport that they get the most pleasure or fun out of.

Children of today will not put up with boring laps around ovals, doing push-ups at age seven or being made to stand in long queues.

They will vote with their feet and go to sports where they get plenty of action, organised sessions, plenty of contacts or a ball and some caring, enthusiastic coaching.

A coaching book cannot, of course, turn somebody into a coach, but what it can

do is support the beginner coach, give ideas and stimulate.

The coaching book is an ideal resource when attending a coaching course.

What also must be remembered is that for thousands of coaches, especially in the country, it is impossible to watch in action the national coaches Eddie Thomson and Les Scheinflug, and there are only 14 NSL coaches and seven Directors of Coaching.

Also, it must be remembered that watching an NSL coach in action might be totally inappropriate to coaching eight-year-olds.

On a personal level, while I was a Director of Coaching and State Coach of Tasmania, I saw a young nun coaching a team of 10-year-old boys and I honestly couldn't have done a better job!

The contents of this coaching book, which will be available through State Federations in early 1991, includes:

1. A brief history of soccer
2. Rules and equipment of the game
3. How to organise a coaching session
4. A sample coaching session
5. The basic skills of soccer
6. How to use grids
7. Fun games for soccer
8. A homework section for wet days

Overall, the book has everything the beginner coach needs and will be sold at a price that everybody can afford.

JUNIOR PERSONALITY PLAYER



ANTE MILICIC

NAME: Ante Josip Milicic

CLUB: AIS — full-time

D.O.B.: 4.4.74

PLACE: Sydney

FAVOURITE POSITION: Forward

FAVOURITE PLAYERS: Maradona,

Valderrama, Milosevic

PLAYING CAREER: Strathfield 80, 81,

Runners-Up in Grand Final.

SYDNEY CROATIA: 82, 83, 86, 88, 89 90 — 89,

90 State Champions.

ZAGREB HURSTVILLE: 84, 85 twice Grand

Finals winners.

CANTERBURY DISTRICTS: 86, 87 — 86 State

Champions, Canterbury Reps.

NSW: U14, U15, U16 Australian Champions.

LONG-TERM AMBITIONS: To represent Australia in the U19s in 1993 and to play for Sydney Croatia in the NSL.

* * * Second Sydney Croatia junior to be selected to play and train full-time with AIS. Looking at his playing record above, if he keeps this up what a future this young player will have!

compiled by MICHAEL KOMADINA

Aussie school teams are touring South-East Asia

THE Australian schoolgirls and boys soccer teams have embarked on a combined tour of Malaysia, Singapore and Brunei.

The teams left Darwin yesterday.

The teams travelled to Brunei, where they will have a brief stopover and then travel onto Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

The schedule for the games played on tour are as follows:

Malaysia: Monday 7 Perak State, Wednesday 9 Seremban, Friday 11 Johore Bahru.

Singapore: Saturday 12 National Elite Youth Singapore Women's Club, Monday 14 Singapore pre-Olympic Singapore Women's Club 2, Wednesday 16 Both teams will play one of the above teams.

Brunei: Friday 18 Brunei Schoolboys, Saturday 19 Brunei Youth.

★ Due to religious beliefs and customs, there will be no girls' games in Brunei.

The teams will return to Australia on Sunday, January 20 1991.

1991 BOYS' TEAM

Bruce Grassick ACT, Andrew Ravello ACT, John Bowles NSW, Peter Tsekenis NSW, Adam Whan NSW, Troy Halpin NSW, Michael Musitano NSW, Hayden Begbie NSW, Jason Sultana NSW, Robert Graskoski NSW, David Widders NSW, Brett Lavale Vic, Vince De La Plaza Vic, Tim James Qld, Damien Harris Qld, Justin Playle Qld.

TEAM OFFICIALS

Tour leader — Mick

Banks, Boys' Coach — Tom Sermanni, Boys' Manager — Ron Pratt, Assistant Coach — Richard Shortman, Girls' Coach — Sue Andrews, Girls' Manager — David Brabham, Assistant Coach — Brett Green.

1991 GIRLS' TEAM

Evangelia Boubaris NT, Christina Ballerini Vic, Kristyn Swaffer SA, Emily Lancsar ACT, Bronwyn Hart Qld, Louise McMurtrie Qld, Mischa Rinaldis Qld, Mia Thompson Qld, Katie Smith Qld, Tamara Kitching Qld, Kristin Burke NSW, Stephanie Kite NSW, Denise Benetis NSW, Joanne Powell NSW, Charmaine Potter NSW, Amanda Patterson NSW.

Ad City in first loss

BY ROY HAY

MELBOURNE Croatia inflicted its first defeat for the season on league leader Adelaide City at Somers Street in Round 12 of the National Youth League Southern Division on December 23.

Leo Stolica scored for Croatia and top scorer Carlo Talladira replied for Adelaide City, and it seemed the match must end in a draw but a last-minute penalty kick by Joe Bacak gave Croatia the points in a 2-1 win.

The pursuing pack took advantage to close on the leader.

Sunshine George Cross had a comfortable 2-0 win over Brighton at Dendy Park with goals by Ossie Latif and Mitchell Cattermole.

Jim Kourtis, the Brighton keeper, was the man of the match, keeping his side in contention with a string of fine saves.

Preston Makedonia defeated Northcote City 7-2 at Connor Reserve.

Zdravko Trajkovski and Nick Georgopoulos each scored twice for Preston, while Louie Bekiaris, Elvis Dimitrievski, and Chris Temelkovski got one apiece.

Jim Iliopoulos and Perry Peppas replied for Northcote.

South Melbourne Hellas kept in the hunt with a 3-0 win over Heidelberg United at Olympic Village.

Joe Palatisides converted two penalty kicks and Peter Tiktikakis scored the other goal for Hellas.

Altona Gate led Springvale City 2-0 till late in the game at the Frank Holohan complex, when a goal apiece took the final score to 3-1 to the visitors.

Simon Micevski had two goals for Altona Gate and Henry Velkovski continued his fine form this season with another. Darren McClenaghan got Springvale's counter.

Melbourne Croatia Colts proved too strong for South Melbourne Hellas Colts at Middle Park, winning 3-1.

Jani Suric raised his

goal tally for the season to double figures with two goals in this match, one from the penalty spot, which turned the match.

Stjepan Silic added the other.

Michael Pappis scored a late consolation goal for Hellas Colts.

Finally, Geelong City got some reward for a lot of effort with a 2-0 upset win over Caulfield City at Princes Park.

Richie Black was going through when he was brought down by the keeper and Peter McCaffrey scored from the spot.

Ross Hay's corner was headed down by Grant Carr and Con Gaintanis and Ivan Colak's well placed volley secured the points.

CLUBS AND REFEREES

Would all clubs ensure that they phone results and scorers for both teams to Roy Hay on 052-435 966 on Sundays so that the information can be supplied to the press, radio and TV as soon as possible.

Please feel free to make copies of this newsletter and distribute it to your players and supporters.

Would all referees please ensure that they phone results to Roy Hay on 052-435 966 on Sunday evenings so that we can get match reports and goalscorers to the media as soon as possible.

Would referees ensure that they send the relevant copies of the team sheets, with scores, scorers and cautions (including points awarded for offences) to Vicki Juric, National Soccer League, 23-25 Frederick Street, Rockdale, NSW 2216 as soon as possible after the game.

NATIONAL YOUTH LEAGUE NORTH

No surprises at half-way mark

BY PAUL GOODWIN

THE curtain came down on the first half of the National Youth League Northern Division season on Sunday and there were few surprises.

The AIS will begin the New Year with two deferred games in hand and only one point off the lead.

Only four games were played at the weekend and three resulted in draws with the fourth heading that way, too, until an unfortunate free kick denied Adamstown of their second point for the campaign.

Adamstown Rosebuds went down 2-1 to Sydney Olympic and played some good soccer in a capable display.

Pablo Cardoso gave Olympic a thirty-five minute lead, but George Sefouris equalised in the 68th minute for the Newcastle side.

Fourteen-year-old Adamstown keeper Troy Bellamy was penalised for taking too many steps with the ball in the 71st minute and Craig Sharpley struck the indirect free kick

hard against the defensive wall with the ball deflecting into the net for Olympic's winner.

Perhaps the start of the second round will see the decidedly youthful Novacastrians settle into a winning formula, as they drew much praise from neutral observers at this match.

Sydney Academy and Marconi drew 1-1 on Saturday, Mark Dall'est cancelling out an early goal by the home side, with a timely interception at the 60 minute mark.

Apia Leichhardt and Wollongong City featured in an entertaining match at Lambert Park, with all the goals in a 2-2 draw arriving in an eleven-minute spell mid-way through the second half.

Peter Kotamanidis split the Apia defence in the 63rd minute for Danny Petkovic who slammed the ball low into the net from 20 metres to give Wollongong the lead.

Substitute Morris Reyes broke back for Apia in the 63rd minute

when he slipped the ball under an advancing Wolves keeper Mick Atsas after first getting past three defenders.

Sasha Dimoski was able to restore his side's lead, gaining possession on the edge of the box and finishing with a strong low shot.

Rod Brown and Tony Lemezina, both rested from first grade and forming a formidable spearhead at this level were in the thick of the action.

The latter and another senior player David Batten both hit the bar in rapid succession before Rod Brown picked up the crumbs, managing to tap the ball in from point blank range.

Highfields Azzurri entertained Melita in front of an 800-strong crowd at the Valentine Complex in Newcastle and could have done better than the 1-1 draw they achieved.

Parramatta Melita keeper Scott Preston brought down in-form striker Brad Van Epan in the 20th minute but redeemed himself by diving low to his right to deprive Craig Penfold of an opening penalty goal.

Lenny Vial almost put the Eagles in front in the 41st but Lee Archer in the Azzurri goal produced a typical reflex save to deprive the striker.

After a scoreless first period the home side almost struck again when Van Epan headed wide from a cross by Glen Cooper in the 66th minute.

Four minutes later a good move down the left flank led to a fine shot by Aldo Martincich nestling in the bottom corner when the prolific striker cut into the area and let fly with an angled drive.

Ricky Bucci provided Van Epan with the equaliser in the 70th minute with a superb through ball and the same pair combined again in the 80th minute only for the header by Van Epan to be directed straight at Scott Preston.

Next week St George have a chance to establish their superiority when they tackle Apia at Barton Park, AIS having the bye.

Marconi and Sydney Croatia clash at Bossley Park and Croatia will be hoping for a better showing than their first round 1-0 loss.

Highfields plays Olympic and Melita entertains Wollongong Macedonia, while Adamstown travel to the south coast to meet Wollongong City, still in search of their first two pointer.

Leading scorers: 7: John Kakakios (St George)

6: Stephen Corica (AIS Marconi), Adam Clantar, Adam Poric (St George)

5: Pablo Cardoso (Olympic), Aldo Martin-

cich (Melita), Ante Milicic (AIS), Shaun Freestone (St George)

St George.....11 8 1 2 34 17 17
AIS.....9 7 2 0 25 10 16
Sydney Croatia.....10 7 1 2 22 7 15
Parramatta Melita.....11 6 3 2 17 9 15

Sydney Olympic.....11 5 4 2 15 9 14
W'gong City.....11 4 3 4 13 16 11
H'field Azzurri.....11 4 3 4 20 24 11
Sydney Academy.....10 4 2 4 19 13 10
Apia Leichhardt.....11 3 2 6 18 24 8
Marconi.....11 3 1 11 15 20 7
Wollongong Mace.....11 1 1 9 7 30 3
Adamstown Rose.....11 0 1 10 14 40 1



Ross Aloisi is one of the up-and-comers for Adelaide City — Photo by Janusz Kamma.

BHP Austral are ready for 1991

BHP Austral are in the process of signing retained players for the 1991 season.

Craig Carter, David Bowenand and Wayne Bailey are already contracted. Scott Gresham and Dean McWhirter, two of BHP Austral's up and coming stars, have agreed to terms with the club.

He is currently spending three weeks at Anfield with English champion club Liverpool, training with the reserve team and getting to meet the senior squad.

IN the suburb of Birmingham Gardens, Newcastle, stands the home of BHP Austral.

At Austral they are known as "The corner drinkers".

One Friday afternoon general manager Dave McQuire offered to buy a few rounds if the boys would contribute to the laying of grass around the spectator area at Austral Park.

The corner boys took up the offer, they enjoyed the free drink and also the ones they paid for themselves.

The following morning it was time to repay the debt; the "Fab Fourteen" arrived to see a mountain of turf waiting to be laid (some 5,000 sq metres in all).

Not feeling the best they asked for instructions.

"Green side up" said Dave McQuire.

Not the right choice of colour came the reply.

The same ritual was conducted over three weekends. Con Mitsios is the president, some now say "Con" McQuire is the general manager.



CRAIG CARTER

Coach Willie Gallagher has indicated he will be using several of the grade final-winning youth team for the State League squad next season.

Troy Halpin, Richard Johnson, Shane Oberaker and Andy Roberts have all caught the eye of Willie Gallagher.

If a pre-season competition is arranged these boys could well get their chance to press for a senior spot come early April.

Troy Halpin, the club's leading scorer last season, has recently toured overseas with the Australian Schools' team visiting South East Asia.

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CHANCE FOR METROS

BY LACHLAN BARKER

CANBERRA fans are gearing up for the entry into the Quit NSL of their local team, the Canberra Metros.

And with the widespread dissatisfaction among ACT sports fans with the deal they are getting from the Canberra Raiders, the Metros could reap a bountiful harvest of supporters.

Whilst in Canberra recently, I spoke to some sports followers about these topics.

"A day out with the family at a Raiders match can be crippling expensive."

"Entry to the ground is \$40 for two adults and two kids and buying drinks and stuff quickly mounts up," said one fan.

"I will be happy to support the Metros provided the games are safe and the prices are reasonable."

Some younger park players were more enthusiastic.

The tenor of their comments ranged from "can't wait" to "it will be great to have our own team".

It has been rumoured that the Metros would like to play their home games at Bruce Stadium, a venue the federal government is keen to rent out whenever possible.

If the Metros play their cards right they could receive a very cheap deal on this high quality venue.

With the current unrest over the standard of grounds in the QNSL, this can only be a good thing.

Not just for the Metros, but for the game itself.

Soccer's Supermum

BY GRAHAM COOKE

AT a time in life when most women have long since relegated their sporting interests to social level, Michelle Sawyers is planning to move hers into the hotbed of top-level international competition.



Michelle Sawyers

And if she succeeds it will be a fitting triumph for one of the pioneers of Australian women's soccer, who has seen the game grow from kick-and-giggle in the Queensland back-blocks to a respected place in the world hierarchy.

Barring injury, defender Sawyers, 30, will be representing her country next May in the Oceania qualifying competition for the first women's World Cup.

Should her confident prediction that Australia will qualify prove true she will be a key member of the squad travelling to the finals, scheduled for China in November.

And while she is undoubtedly one of the most talented players Queensland has produced, the high road to China has not always been easy.

Former national coach John Doyle dropped her from his first-choice squad for the Oceania Championships in Brisbane two years ago — a clear indication he considered she had outlived her usefulness.

No-one would have blamed her for retiring there and then, instead Sawyers gritted her teeth, accepted a place in the Australian B side and went all out to prove Doyle wrong.

His successor, Steve Darby, was convinced.

Darby, in the kindest possible way, describes her as a freak.

"Normally, I would not consider a person of her age in the kind of team I am trying to build at international level," he said.

"But Michelle breaks all the rules. I never fail to be astonished at her level of fitness and dedication."

His words were born out by tests made on the squad at a recent training camp at the Australian Institute of Sport where her results put her in the top five for physical condition — better than players a dozen years her junior.

Perhaps most surprisingly, Sawyers does not retain these standards at the expense of family life.

She is married to Steve, an Olympic standard wrestler, and has two children — pregnancies which have been the only major interruptions to a 16-year playing career.

She is philosophical at her inevitable "Supermum" image. "It's worked for other athletes and if it helps to raise the profile of women's soccer so be it," she says.

Michelle Sawyers has been involved since she was 13 — in a soccer-crazy family where her brothers and sisters all played and her father

coached it was the most natural thing in the world.

She went to the first national championships in 1974, but in those early years lived in the shadow of elder sister Gail who captained the state.

Her first club, and the one she has been with for all but one playing season, is Coalstars of Ipswich.

"It's always been handy for me, because I live about 20 minutes outside Ipswich and travelling further afield, such as the one season when I represented Easts in Brisbane, has always been difficult," she said.



New Zealand v Taiwan action. The Aussies must eliminate the hard-to-beat Kiwis to qualify for the World Cup in China.

She has since played-coached the team into a First Division spot during which time the club has expanded with the addition of Second and Fifth Division sides.

"The Fifth Division side is mostly 13-year-olds," she says. "They're finding it hard playing against adult women, but because we have coached them from the start they are doing alright."

One member of that Fifth Division team is Michelle's 13-year-old daughter, Nicole.

"She has actually had a couple of games in the firsts and it's certainly strange to hear someone shouting 'pass the ball mum'. I'm not sure how far she'll go, but I am certainly not getting her hopes up about representing Queensland or anything like that."

"My son, Mark, who is 10, seems much more inclined to go for every-

thing and I think he could do quite well."

She acknowledges the support she has had from her husband in her pursuit of soccer fame.

"It's hard to stay in a sport if you're married, because there's guilt about going away and leaving your husband to look after the kids, but Stephen has always been the one to push me into keeping fit and trying for the very best."

"I'll never regret choosing soccer over any other sport, although I'd have to say that at the end of each season I'm sick of the game."

"But two weeks later the urge comes to get back into it."

"And now, at least, I have something really outstanding to aim for. The pinnacle of any sports person's career is to go to a world championship and that's within my grasp."

"Yes I've had a long wait but maybe, for me, it's been for the best — different coaches pick different people and if the World Cup had

been held, say three years ago, I probably would not have been there."

As it is, 1991 is shaping to be a vintage year for Australian soccer's super-fit Supermum.

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ADVERTISING

The 1990 international scene in review

World game set for a booming new year

BY BRIAN TRUSDELL of AP

AFTER years of being hurt by repeated fan violence, soccer damaged its own image in 1990 with a dull, defensive World Cup and an inability to develop a plan to reverse the trend.

In years past, soccer took a beating over events such as the Heysel Stadium riots in 1985 and the Hillsborough tragedy in 1989.

But in 1990, the first 1-0 final in the 60-year history of the World Cup, and one in which the only goal was scored on a penalty kick, dampened the spirit of even some of the most ardent soccer fans.

Unless, of course, you were German.

West Germany's victory over Argentina set off wild celebrations from Berlin to Bonn three months before unification with East Germany.

"This was more violent than the revolution," East Germany resident Helmut Klemm said of the marauding fans. "Why can't they just barrack for the team?"

Andreas Brehme's 79th minute penalty kick lifted West Germany to its third World Cup, but the victory in Rome wasn't without controversy or criticism.

None of the criticism was levelled at West Germany, a pre-tournament favourite that was one of the few teams praised for its overall attractive style of play.

Criticism

FIFA took the brunt of the criticism.

Defending champion Argentina claimed the World Cup final was "fixed", and others said soccer's ruling body should have acted against defensive tactics which led to an all-time low 2.21 goals per game average, nearly a goal less than the 3.10 average of all of the World Cups combined.

Some criticised Argentina for seemingly playing for draws in the single elimination round with the hope of winning on penalty kicks.

However, Argentina wasn't alone in its tactics.

In the preliminary round of Group F, all but one game involving England, the Netherlands, Ireland and Egypt ended in a 1-1 or 0-0 draw.

FIFA tried to address the problem before the World Cup, altering the off-side rule. The "even is now on-side" amendment, coupled with a red card for the so-called "professional foul" were adopted in the hope of encouraging scoring.

It didn't. Other ideas were banded about: increasing the dimensions of the goal, eliminating the off-side rule and reducing the number of



ANDREAS BREHME: scored Germany's World Cup winning goal at Italia '90.

players.

But with purists claiming it was not the game at fault, but the way coaches teach it, and that the proposed changes were only to appease a soccer-illiterate US audience, the suggestions met considerable resistance.

And without a united front or consensus, it appears little change is likely for the 1994 World Cup in the United States.

However, the World Cup in Italy did have its moments.



ROGER MILLA — inspired Cameroun to great heights.

From its opening upset of Argentina — where it used rough marking of star striker Diego Maradona — Cameroun's incredible run was a marvel, climaxed by its dramatic 3-2 extra-time quarter-final loss to England.

Roger Milla, who came out of retirement at 38, led his country to inspired play, including a 2-1 extra-time victory over Colombia in the second round.

Elsewhere, Salvatore Schillaci came off the bench twice in the first round to spur victories and scored a tournament-high six goals to lead Italy into the semi-finals.

Despite the criticism, "half of the human race watched soccer at least once", said Italia '90 head Luca de Montezemolo.

Except, in the United States, where television ratings were poor.

No violence

Partially to blame for the low ratings was the poor performance of the US team, which made its first appearance in the finals in 40 years.

An opening game 5-1 loss to Czechoslovakia, a respectable 1-0 loss to host Italy and a 2-1 loss to Austria (despite a two-man advantage at the end of the game), placed the United States 23rd out of 24 teams and generated little interest at home.

One plus for the World Cup was that feared massive violence, particularly from English fans, never materialised.

With the English national team exiled to the island of Sardinia, only half of the expected 8,000 English fans made the trip and they were met with an almost equal police presence.

Bars and liquor stores were closed up to 72

hours before, during and after matches. But it wasn't a World Cup completely void of hooligans.

One of the worst incidents involved German fans, who smashed shops in Milan. About 100 were arrested, 44 sent home and five sentenced to two years in jail.

Apart from the World Cup, there were sporadic outbreaks of fan violence in Europe, most notably in newly united Germany, particularly in the east. One young fan was shot and killed by police, who were trying to break up riots in Leipzig after a game.

Political problems also fuelled violence in Yugoslavia, where a game between league champion Red Star Belgrade and Dinamo Zagreb ended in a riot.

On a positive note, England finally returned to European Cup competition as a five-year ban on English clubs was lifted.

Aston Villa and Manchester United became the first clubs from England to play on the continent since the 1985 Champions' Cup riots at the Heysel Stadium in Brussels.

On the field at least, Italy demonstrated its dominance of club play by capturing all three European Cups: Juventus the UEFA Cup, Sampdoria the Cup-Winners' Cup and AC Milan successfully defended its Champions' Cup title.

AC Milan also triumphed again in the Toyota Intercontinental Cup, beating Olimpia of Paraguay 3-0 in Tokyo.

Olimpia advanced to the one-game Toyota Cup, generally viewed as the world club championship, by surviving a highly controversial Copa Libertadores that was marred by threats of bribery and intimidation.

The biggest of the scandals broke in the quarter-finals.

The South American Soccer Confederation voided Atletico Nacional's 2-0 victory over Brazil's Vasco de Gama on August 29 in Medellin, Colombia.

The action was taken because referee Juan Daniel Cardellino was threatened with death if he didn't ensure a Nacional Medellin win.

The match was replayed and Nacional still won 1-0, but the Confederation also barred Colombia from hosting any Confederation-sanctioned games.



Sampdoria's Gianluca Vialli takes a spectacular fall at the feet of team-mate Srecko Katanec, the Yugoslav international, in a recent Italian League game.

Falcao warning

NEW Brazilian coach Paulo Roberto Falcao has warned that it could be another 10 years before his team is ready to challenge for the World Cup again.



ROBERTO FALCAO

"We've got to change our attitude," he warns.

"It's time to stop thinking that Brazil will always win.

"We're not producing great players the way we used to and it will take a lot of work and a very long time to put things right."

English Boom

FORGET about moving the woodwork — English football is already enjoying a goal boom.

First Division strikers rattled up their 500th goal of the season on Boxing Day.

So far they have notched 459 at an average of 2.75 a game.

That is a rise of 6.2 per cent on last season and demonstrates you do not need to make goals bigger, as FIFA boss Joao Havelange had suggested, to make the game more spectacular.

Liverpool lead the way, with Ian Rush and Peter Beardsley helping them average more than two goals a game.

Their example is being copied throughout the League, with rises in goalscoring of 2.5 per cent in the Second Division, 2.7 per cent in the Third and 0.8 per cent in the Fourth.

So far the fans who have surged back to give the League a record fifth consecutive attendance boost have seen 2,268 goals, or 2.7 a game.

Newly promoted Sunderland and Sheffield United are enjoying attendance rises of 35 per cent and 27 per cent, even though Sunderland are coming 17th in the First Division and United haven't won a game and have the lowest scoring average (0.43, or seven



PAUL GASCOIGNE

goals in 17 games).

Third-placed Crystal Palace's success has seen them attract an extra 3,000 fans a game and Tottenham, helped by the personality and talent of Paul Gascoigne, are drawing an extra 6,000.

Overall gates are up by 3.7 per cent this season, to 8,435,742 — an average of 10,043 a game compared with 9,688 last season.

The First Division is showing the biggest rise, up 13 per cent to 23,500.

MATTHAUS No.1

INTER Milan's German star Lothar Matthaus has made it official.

After winning several 1990 Player of the Year awards, he is now the universally regarded best player in Europe for 1990 after winning France Football's European Player of the Year award.

That is recognised as the official player award and Matthaus captured 137 out of a maximum of 145 votes.

Second was Italy's Salvatore Schillaci, 50 votes behind, and Inter Milan's German defender Andreas Brehme came third.

GARY'S PRIZE



ENGLAND's Gary Lineker has won this year's FIFA Fair Play award, worth more than 50,000 dollars.

Spurs striker Lineker, who led England into the semi-finals of the World Cup in Italy, was chosen for the prize for his exemplary conduct.

FIFA pointed out that he has never been booked or sent off in a career which has taken him from his home town club Leicester to Everton, Barcelona and Tottenham.

A likeable, mild-mannered man, Lineker has never been seen to retaliate despite the harsh treatment he has often received at the hands of opposing defenders at club and international level.

They all want the World Cup

ELEVEN US cities have filed early applications to take part in the 1994 World Cup.

Some 32 communities have formally stated their desire to host World Cup matches and have until May 1 to submit applications.

Among the early applicants, nine sent in bids to stage the qualifying draw in December next year.

They are Chicago, Dallas, Houston, Honolulu, Kansas City, New York/New Haven, Charlotte, Orlando, and Phoenix.

Cities making early bids for matches were Charlotte, Chicago, Honolulu, Minneapolis-St Paul and Philadelphia.

"The fact that so many communities have formally declared their desire early to host games and the qualifying draw for the 1994 World Cup demonstrates the broad

interest in the tournament and in soccer across the United States," World Cup USA 1994 co-chairman Charles Cale said.

Jim Trecker, a spokesman for the Organising Committee, said a report in a British newspaper that major stadium owners are unwilling to commit themselves to the World Cup was 'totally absurd.'

"We've never had a stadium problem," he said. "In fact, it's quite the contrary."

Kansas City was prepared to tear up the artificial turf at Arrowhead Stadium, home of the National Football League team the Chiefs, and replace it with grass as required by FIFA, and the University of Michigan had similar plans for its 100,000-seat stadium.

FRENCH CLEAN-UP PLAN

THE French League has approved a series of measures intended to rescue the game from a series of financial problems.

But the players, who look set to lose money as a result, may well rebel through the professional footballers' union.

Club chairmen, under fire for alleged mismanagement with many sides on the verge of bankruptcy and some involved in fraud cases, unanimously adopted changes in the management rules in a bid to clean up the game.

The players' union chairman Philippe Piat declared as "illegal and totally unacceptable" a new rule bringing in compensation to a club when a player leaves at the end of a contract.

The new measures also cut the number of professionals at First Division clubs from 21 to 19 for next season and from 16 to 15 in the Second Division.

The union fears unemployment among members and is also against the elimination of the release clause in contracts which was also passed at the winter general meeting in Paris.



German striker Ernst Rainer, one of the few former East Germans to be in contention for Berti Vogts' united German national team. The 'new' Germany won its first game 4-0 against Switzerland in Stuttgart two weeks ago.